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Destiny's Child

We talk to Kelly, Beyoncé, and Michelle

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I'm Zelda Van Gutters, the magazine's roving reporter. Look for my biting wit throughout the issue.

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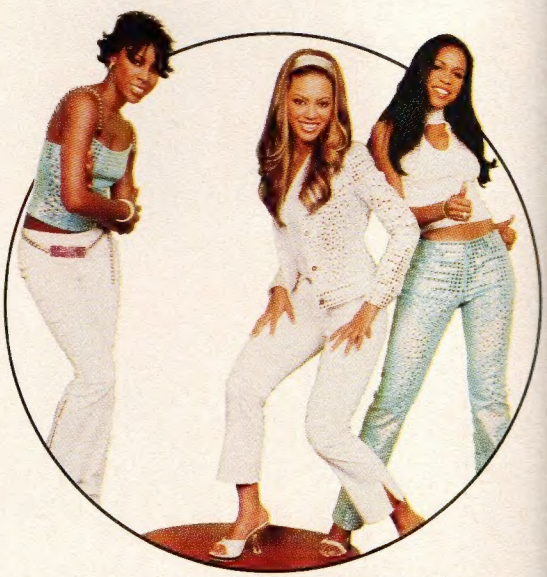

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When you see this
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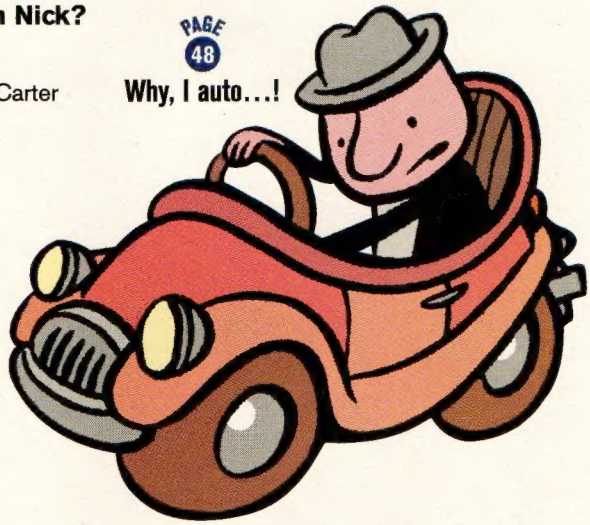

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We're on the Web.
Go to www.nick.com/all_nick/nick_mag/index.jhtml to find gags, fill-ins, puzzles, and stuff we couldn't fit onto our pages.

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Letters to the Editors

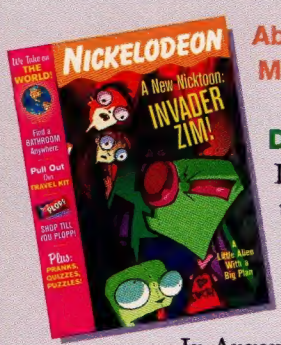
Real

Dear Nick Mag,
Is it all right if we submit more than one entry for "Say What?" or can we send only one? Because I had a few good ones to send in.

Alexander S., age 12
Sugarland, Texas

Dear Alexander,
If you have more than one good answer, you're welcome to send them all in. (Just put each on a separate piece of paper.) Since we usually eat candy and snacks while we read the entries, the more the merrier.

• • • • •



About the May issue:

Dear Nick Mag,
I would like to inform you about two more "Bad Goods."
In Argentina there is a brand of bread named Bimbo! There is also a hamburger-patty brand named Barfy. I am not joking! I visited Argentina last summer. When I saw these, I laughed my head off!
Klaus G., age 14
Wooldridge, Missouri

• • • • •

Dear Nick Mag,
My mom actually picked the Emotional Baggage tag and put it on her luggage to go to Florida!
Amy C., age 10
Beacon Falls, Connecticut

Sounds like your mom really needed that vacation.

• • • • •

Dear Nick Mag,
I think "The Celeb Page" is really a good thing. I never would have guessed that Mandy Moore's favorite food was McDonald's.
Michelle H., age 11
Mt. Laurel, New Jersey

Dear Michelle,
We were surprised, too. We thought she just craved *candy.*

• • • • •

Dear Nick Mag,
Your "IHOP-UN" pullout prank tricked my mom. She thought it was a real restaurant. Now she is thinking about going there. What should I tell her?
Brittany B., age 9
Soldotna, Alaska

Dear Brittany,
Tell her to stay away from the Argentine Anchovy Pancakes!

Send your letters to:

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Whatever We Want

Four for Fall

Here's a quick quiz about the season that brings you the start of the school year, Halloween, and new TV shows. Answers on page 95.

1. In the seventeenth century, the full name for fall (meaning autumn) was:

a. the falling of the leaf.
b. the falling of the temperature.
c. the falling of the jaw that occurs when students learn they have a mean homeroom teacher this year.

2. Leaves turn brown in the fall partly because:

a. brown goes with tree trunks so nicely.
b. a substance called chlorophyll, which makes leaves green, disappears when the temperature starts to drop.
c. they are rusting.

3. In the southern hemisphere, fall falls in the months of:

a. September, October, November, and December.
b. March, April, May, and June.
c. June, January, March, and May.

4. The leaf blower was invented by:

a. a woman named Wendy Windycheeks.
b. accident when a door-to-door vacuum-cleaner salesman put a sample model in reverse.
c. Japanese engineers in the 1970s.

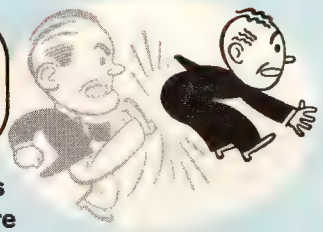
An Apple a Page...

We're not trying to butter you up or anything, but here's a delicious apple for you. We put our page numbers on it. (Now will you give us an A on this issue?)

Destiny's Editors

Can you tell which of the folks in this photo (from the 2001 Kids' Choice Awards) are Nick Mag editors and which are members of the chart-topping singing group Destiny's Child? Okay, so it's not that hard. Answer on page 95.

Pretendship Problems



In honor of this issue's theme, friends, here are seven ways to tell if your relationship with your imaginary friend is on the rocks:

- You see him so seldom, it's as if he's invisible.
- You wonder if it's your imagination, but she seems to be talking about you behind your back.
- When you ask him a question, you get a stony silence.
- You invite her over and she just doesn't show up.
- You can't seem to read his thoughts the way you used to.
- The two of you never want to see the same imaginary movie.
- When you voice concerns about the friendship, she tells you you're imagining things.

• Her imaginary dog now barks whenever you come around.

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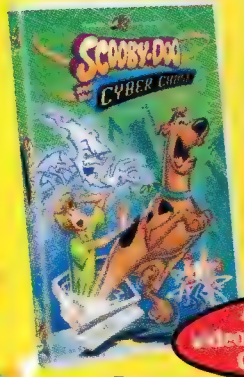

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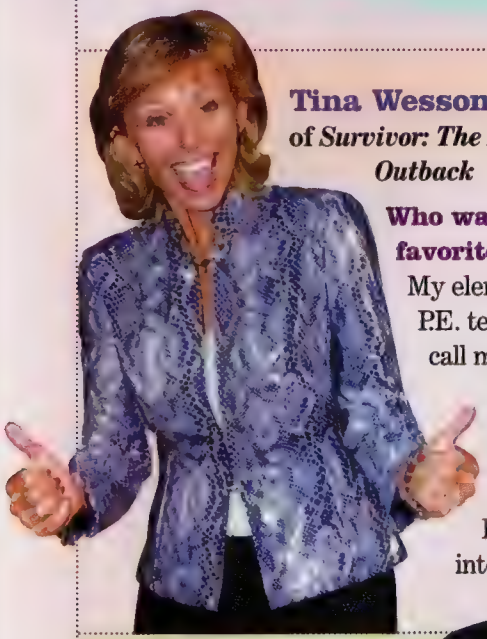
The Celeb Page

These six celebs spoke to us about school.

Real



Tina Wesson
of *Survivor: The Australian Outback*

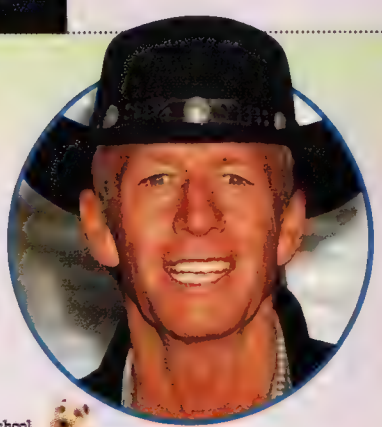
Who was your favorite teacher?
My elementary-school P.E. teacher used to call me the Blonde Bombshell, and he was so encouraging. He's the reason I originally went into the P.E. field.

Sisqo, singer

What was your hardest subject in school?
Math was my worst subject, but my favorite teacher was Mr. Pryor, my math teacher in Baltimore, Maryland. Every day he would write "Think Positive" on the board. And I've definitely carried that message with me into my adult years.

Paul Hogan
of *Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles*

What was your hardest subject in school?
Just going was hard.



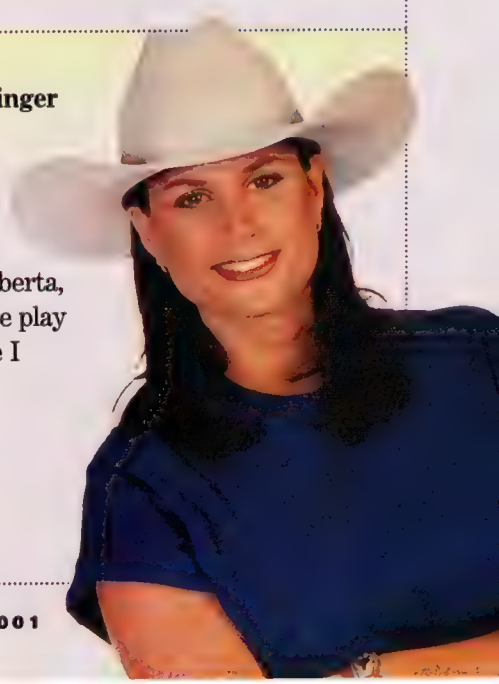
Obedience school was the same way.

Julianne Moore
of *Evolution*

What was your hardest subject in school?
Gym, because I am not physical. It's not my strong suit. I was the one who got hit by the dodgeball really hard.

Meryl Streep
of *Music of the Heart*

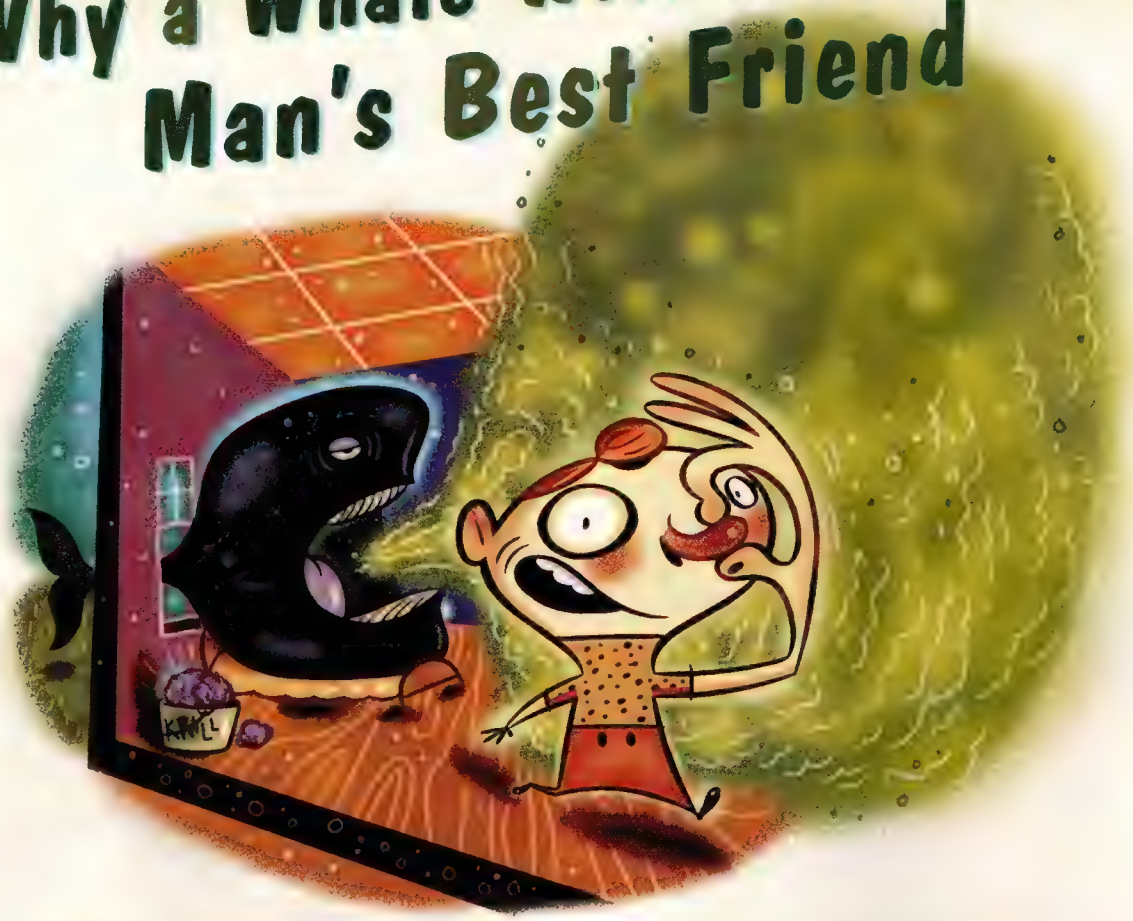
What was school like for you?
I went to public schools in New Jersey, and we had a fantastic art and drama department, where I got my start playing Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man*. I'm very grateful for that.



Terri Clark, singer

Who was your favorite teacher?
My high-school band teacher in Alberta, Canada, who let me play the drums because I was lousy at the clarinet.

Why a Whale Will Never Be Man's Best Friend



Everyone loves whales, but not enough for them to replace dogs as man's best friend. Here's why:

- ✔ Impossible to hug
- ✔ Blowholes cause water damage to the ceiling
- ✔ Tend to hog the blankets
- ✔ Unsightly barnacles cause social embarrassment
- ✔ Epic battles with giant squid leave the house a wreck
- ✔ Will eat all of your fish sticks
- ✔ Always spouting off
- ✔ When a whale hangs its head out car window, car flips over
- ✔ Might swallow your friend Jonah
- ✔ Whale farts guaranteed to clear the room
- ✔ Always tracking lots of water into the house
- ✔ Krill breath

I guess I don't have anything to worry about!

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OOPS! SMASHED BERRIES
Kids SMASHED 'EM in THE FACTORY So YOU CAN Fit MORE in YOUR MOUTH!!
CRUNCH-A-TIZE ME CAP'N!
QUAKER
NEW
CAP'N CRUNCH'S OOPS!
Smashed BERRIES
KIDS SMASHED THE BERRIES!

IM Out of Order

SoccRgrrl has been busy for the past hour sending instant messages (IMs) to friends. Can you put her six IM windows in the order in which they were written? Number them in the blanks provided. **Answers on page 95.**

Instant Message With: K8E

K8E: Didja like the chicken joke I just emailed you?
SoccRgrrl: ROTFL.
K8E: Courtney's on the phone. She's got some news about Timmy!! BRB.
SoccRgrrl: U r gonna love it!

___ WINDOW A Send

Instant Message With: TAMMY2001

SoccRgrrl: Sup, Tam?
TAMMY2001: Not much. Watching Charmed.
SoccRgrrl: Me 2. I just logged on. What's up 2nite?
TAMMY2001: Absolutely nothing.

___ WINDOW B Send

Instant Message With: IBlink4Blink182

SoccRgrrl: OH! U gotta hear about Timmy!
IBlink4Blink182: What????
SoccRgrrl: I *just* heard that Tammy busted him at the mall with Melanie and Ashley!!!
IBlink4Blink182: This is like that Britney song Stronger...OMG, it just came on the radio!!!

___ WINDOW C Send

Instant Message With: ZKITTYZ

ZKITTYZ: Could u believe Charmed 2nite?
SoccRgrrl: Yeah, I was glued to it all night!!

___ WINDOW D Send

Instant Message With: IMsk8n

SoccRgrrl: Did u hear the joke about the chicken?
IMsk8n: Yeah, K8E won't stop forwarding it to me... Ya know, I can't get that song Stronger out of my head. Must be the third time they played it this hour!
SoccRgrrl: Really? First time I heard it. Oh, g2g. Zkittyz is IMing me.

___ WINDOW E Send

Instant Message With: Adam543298

Adam543298: Didja hear about Timmy and Tammy?
SoccRgrrl: What? Tell me!!!!!!! I was just IMing her.
Adam543298: Tammy busted Timmy with Melanie and Ashley at Chelsea Mall.
SoccRgrrl: =:-O

___ WINDOW F Send

Prime Mates

Do animals have friends? Primatologist Frans de Waal thinks many species do. He has studied chimpanzee behavior for more than 25 years and spoke to us about their friendships.

Real

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: Do chimps really make friends?

FRANS DE WAAL: That depends on how you define *friends*. A friend is a preferred partner for certain activities or for friendly contact. So if a chimp has a preferred partner for an activity, we call this friendship.

What kinds of activities do chimp friends do?

Things like grooming each other and sitting together. When they're younger, playing together is their main activity. And if one chimp gets into trouble and the other one helps him, that's also a sign of friendship.

What are friendships between chimps like?

With older males, friendships can be very opportunistic. For example, if two males become leaders of a group, they will support each other. Then if one becomes sick and is not much help in a battle, the other male may switch to another friend. But male chimps aren't purely opportunistic. They also bond strongly [with their friends], hang out a lot, and groom together.

What about female chimps?

Adult females do not have as many friendships as the males, but they are very selective and very committed to their friendships. For males, friendships change over time, but for females these are often friendships for life.

Do chimp friends fight? And if they do, how do they make up?

Yes. There is competition over resources, such as food. The males compete over high status and females. Chimps typically make up by kissing and embracing.

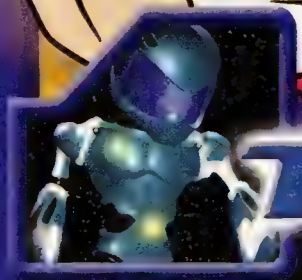
How did you become an animal researcher?

As a child, I was always interested in animals. I wanted to study biology and animal behavior, and I ended up with chimps.

Are you friends with any chimps?

I've known many chimps for years. I see them every day, so we have a friendship in the sense that they know me and recognize me. Twenty-five years ago I worked with chimps in a zoo, and some of those older females are still alive. When I visit that zoo today, from the hundreds of faces they see every day, if they see my face in the crowd, they start coming forward and greeting me. They have a very good memory. ❑

JACKIE AND JADE EVERY DAY!



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I'll have the Caesar salad.
Moretum Caesareum habebo.
more-AY-toom KYE-sar-ay-um ha-BAY-bow.

The dog ate my homework.
Canis meum opus edit.
KAHN-iss MAY-um OH-pus AY-dit.

Will assembly be at the Colosseum today?
Conveniatne hodie conventus in Colosseo?
kahn-wen-ee-AHT-nay HOE-dee-ay kahn-WEN-tus in ko-LOSS-ay-oh?

Where can I park my chariot?
Ubi currum mihi ponere licet?
OO-bee KOOR-um MEE-hee PONE-er-a LICK-et?

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You don't have to be real to be the subject of juicy gossip, as columnist Tommy Tattler knows. See if you can guess which famous pairs of cartoon friends or foes are described in the items below. Answers on page 95.

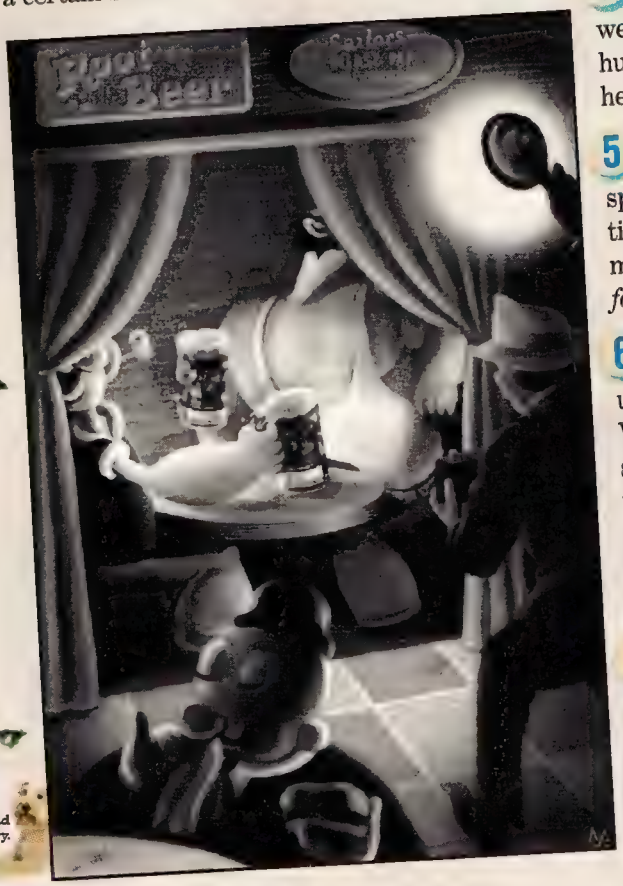
TOMMY TATTLER'S ANIMATED WORLD OF GOSSIP

My cartoon spies are everywhere! Here's the latest poop they've scooped about your favorite animated high rollers and has-beens.

1 Siblings sort it out. A certain brother and sister may have ended their famous sibling spat. For years, she's been pushing his buttons, but he's finally decided to bury the hatchet. In fact, according to well-connected sources, he's invented a device to do just that!

• • •

2 Forearm friends. Anchors aweigh! We caught this large-armed sailor dining at the fashionable Spinachteria with his supposed "enemy," a certain bearded fellow. The two were later seen at a charity blood drive. Could this be the end of the bad blood between them?



I'm behind this story.

• • •

3 A marvelous meal? This famous web-head was irked when a waiter asked him, "Do you want flies with that?" After an awkward moment, the wall-crawling wonder noticed the waiter had green skin and was seven feet tall! "You big gamma goofball," sighed the relieved celebrity. It was his pal, a familiar jade giant, playing a super joke!

• • •

4 Hare or hair? The sun shone brightly this weekend, at least off of the bald head of a certain hunter looking for his hare. We'd recommend that he start looking for a toupee instead.

• • •

5 Spotted at a cave rave. These two pals, seen sporting pelts instead of pants, rocked a local party till it was rubble. But did they stop to clean up the mess? Our sources say they took off on foot…*barefoot,* to be exact.

• • •

6 Submerged shopping spree. What two undersea celebs were seen shopping for swimwear? We hear that the less rounded of the two hasn't soaked up a lot of fashion sense. And though they trolled through stores for hours, his friend looked as though he had just crawled out from under a rock. Sources say he was pink with embarrassment…or does this star always look that way?

• • •

7 Supernatural appetites! The local all-you-can-eat buffet didn't bargain on these two! Their stomachs are true mystery machines, able to quickly process mountains of food. And they still have room for a few snacks after every meal!

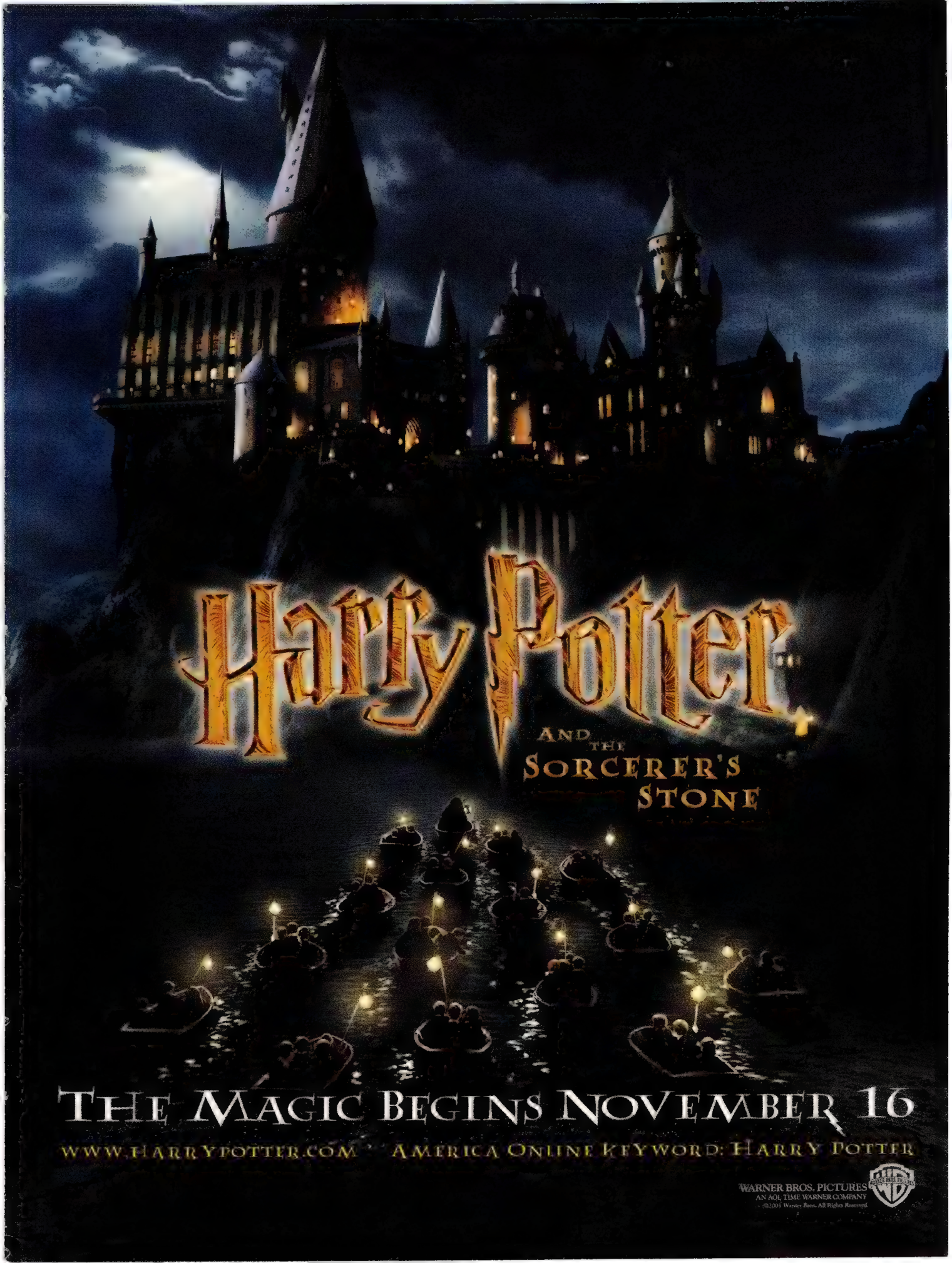
'Toon in tomorrow! —Tommy

The Rumors Are True

by Robert Leighton ✻ Illustration by Jordan Crane

The rumors below are all true, and they refer to things going on in this scene. But the way the gossip is worded is a little misleading. For example, "Louis was sent home" implies that a kid got in trouble. But in the schoolyard, you'll see a kid being sent to home plate in a baseball game. Can you find the five other rumors in the scene? Answers on page 95.

1. "Louis was sent home."
2. "Bill beat Eric up."
3. "Joey asked Melissa if she wanted to go out."
4. "I saw Jason and Michael holding hands."
5. "Emily threw up her lunch."
6. "Brittany has a hairy mole."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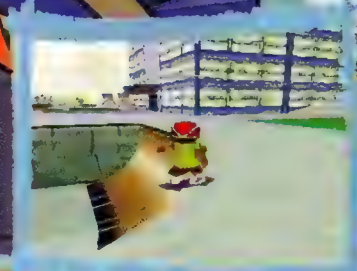

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A Nickelodeon parody

From the pages of...

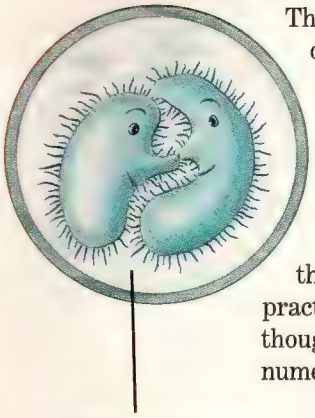
THE ONLY KIDDINGSLEY CONCISE HISTORY *of* FRIENDSHIP

Handshakes Through History

The First Friends: Protozoan Pals

Some scientists believe that back when the universe was nothing but a savory primordial soup, the first friendships formed were among protozoans. Due to intense loneliness—there were no schools, playgrounds, or shopping malls—these simple one-celled creatures constantly searched for companionship. They would shyly swim up to one another, squiggle, and then grasp one another's cilia. This action would evolve, many years and higher life forms later, into the handshake.

Fossil records show that some protozoans practiced the cilia "high five," though this also resulted in numerous casualties.

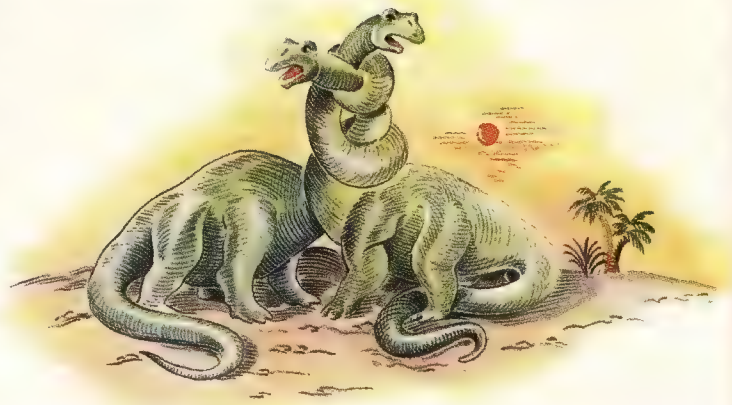


Here protozoans are shown exchanging their single-cell phone numbers.

Dinosaur Duos

Prehistoric beasts were in dire need of companionship, but their aggressive nature made them wary of one another. Small brains didn't help either; they often had trouble remembering friends' names, birthdays, and favorite colors.

Brontosaurs, however, had a way of making closer friendships: the neck shake. Unfortunately, many of them got stuck in this position. Millions of years later, the fossils of these doomed behemoths inspired the creation of the pretzel.



Cavemen Cohorts

After-hours clubbing at the local tar pit was a popular activity for cave people. However, one of the downsides of the tar pits—and of Neanderthalism in general—was the cavemen's custom of dipping their hands in tar before a handshake. The practice, a sign of close bonding, worked—perhaps too well. For years scientists believed they had found fossilized impressions of four-legged cave people, but now we know these tracks were the footprints of two best friends, permanently inseparable.

Modern Friendship Rituals

Playing video games and going to the movies are some of the things friends do together today. You may be surprised to learn some of the rituals of friendship that were common in twentieth-century America.

Bicep Bashes

In the early 1900s many families installed special hanging bars in their backyards, because this was an easy way for parents to keep an eye on kids. "Hangouts" caught on, and the most popular boys and girls were the ones who could hang the longest. The only problem with all this hanging: Most get-togethers lasted only 20 minutes.

continued

MORE THE ONLY KIDDINGSLEY CONCISE HISTORY of FRIENDSHIP

History of Hanging Out

Mummystock

Every summer in ancient Egypt, young friends would hit the road—or the desert—and attend Mummystock, which was billed as "Three days of peace, love, music...and the undead." Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians would don tie-dyed tunics and bandages and wait for buried pharaohs to rise, take the stage, and start jamming. After 800 years of waiting, they finally gave up.

Egyptian teenagers (called Egypteens by archaeologists) often bartered their family's hard-earned goats for commemorative T-shirts like this.

For concerts, some Egypteens donned intricate bandages, probably assisted by their Mummies.

The Vikings

After a hard day of plundering and pillaging, Viking buddies would hang out at their favorite coffee bar, North-Star Bucks. Not long after they discovered the New World, a North-Star Bucks had opened in every North American village. It was a great place for barbaric buddies to hang out...and the bathrooms were a lot cleaner than the ones on the Viking ships.

The Roman Empire

Just like today's parking lots, the chariot lots of ancient Rome were magnets for youth. Teens would stand around for hours, flaunting the latest Tommus Hilfergus togas and talking about the latest *NSYNCUS discus while their horses hung out together, too. But teens grew tired of stepping through heaps of horse manure in their sandals, so the practice fell into decline. ❑

Modern Friendship Rituals

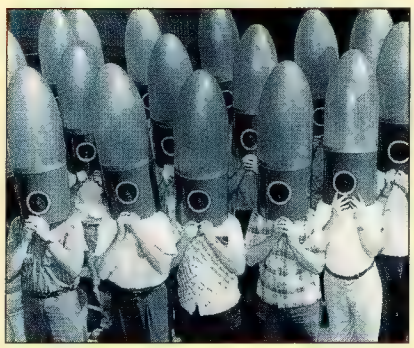
continued

Lock, Stocking, and Barrel

In a twist on the "bicycle built for two," making a "stocking built for 100" was the thing to do for American teenage girls in the 1940s. Friends gathered on Friday nights and spent the weekend sewing their hosiery together, sometimes connecting as many as a hundred pairs at once. Although wearing the finished stocking made walking down narrow streets quite difficult, it kept friends together and made chorus lines a cinch.

Rocket Boosters

The Rocket Age of the 1950s and 1960s inspired a rocket rage among boys. Close friends formed clubs to study rocketry and would design their own unique rocket-wear, including rakish missile helmets *(right)*. Rocket rage faded by 1963 because teenage girls kept mistaking boys for lipstick. ❑



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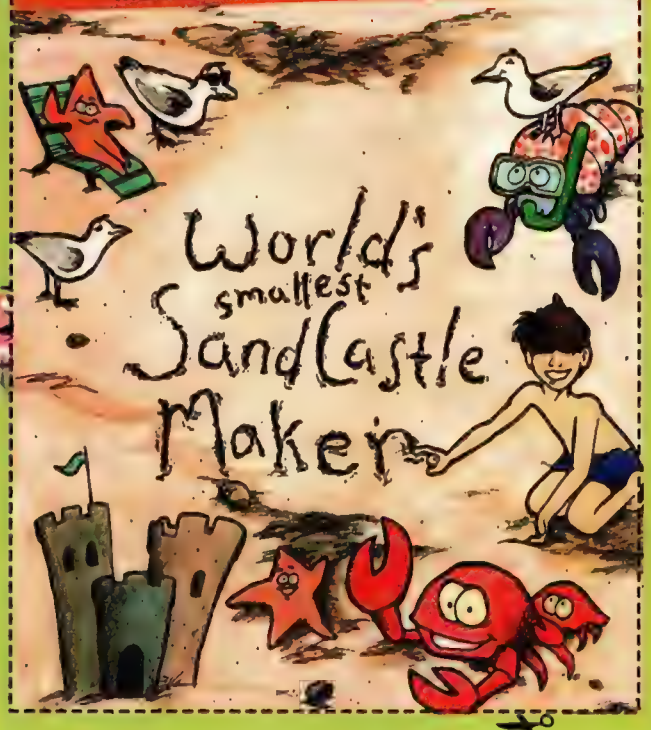

"M&M's" MINIs Custom Tube Cover 009

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Best Friend Kit

This kit will make getting and keeping a best friend as simple as filling out a few forms.

Copy this application and give it to people you're considering for the position of your best friend.

APPLICATION FOR BEST FRIEND POSITION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Nickname: _____

(You may enclose snapshots of your pets, or pets you'd like to have, to help support your application.)

Check the correct answer.

Does your family have a pool?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are you often required to bring younger siblings with you to hang out?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are you willing to share your candy?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Write your answers in the space provided.

Why do you want to be my best friend, and what contributions will you make to my life?_____

_____

Please list any special skills, recently acquired video games, or anything else that will enhance this friendship.

_____

Circle the letter of the answer that you think most closely predicts your own behavior.

1. It's 4 AM and the phone rings. It's the FBI telling you I've been arrested for plotting to take over the world. You:
   - **a.** hang up and go back to sleep.
   - **b.** make some phone calls and get the best legal help available.
   - **c.** quickly spring into action and plot a daring jailbreak, then join me in my quest for total world domination.

2. During a very tense moment in math class, I purposely burp. After the guffaws and chortles die down, the teacher starts reprimanding me. You:
   - **a.** point to me and say, "Yep, that's who did it, Teach!"
   - **b.** point to someone you and I don't like and say, "*He* did it!"
   - **c.** stand up and say, "I cannot tell a lie. Only because of my amazing powers of ventriloquism was I able to throw my burp in my best friend's direction. It was I who burped, and I am ready to suffer the consequences."

3. At the local pool or lake, you notice that not only am I drowning, but so is the entire Senate and House of Representatives, as well as the Postmaster General. The fate of the nation—and the nation's mail delivery system—is at risk. What do you do?
   - **a.** Run away and hope for the best. You're just not up for this kind of hero stuff.
   - **b.** Rescue the Senate first, then the Postmaster General, and, in alphabetical order by state, the House of Representatives, then me.
   - **c.** You know which side your bread's buttered on. You save me first. Maybe once we've caught our breath we can attempt to rescue the others.

The statements in this application are completely true and have not been fabricated merely to weasel my way into this friendship.

Signature: X _____ **Date:** _____

Cut out this letter of congratulations and give it to your new best friend.

my peer group inc.

Dear Friend:

I'd like to extend my hearty congratulations on your promotion to the position of Executive Best Friend of Me.

In the past few months, you've really proven your friendship abilities (or *friendabilities,* as we at My Peer Group Inc. say), especially during the difficult "I told Sara that Max liked Tiffany and Max got mad because he didn't want Tiffany to know" crisis. Your support during those difficult times was invaluable, and this promotion reflects my confidence in you.

In your former capacity as Senior Cohort, your security clearance only gave you access to my favorite TV shows, stuff I thought was gross, and other superficial things. In your new position, you will ooh and ahh while we discuss at great length my various crushes, frustrations, and fights with my parents.

I hope you will join me in celebrating your promotion at a mandatory sleepover at my house this Friday night. Let's hang out like best buds!

Very truly,

X _____
(SIGN HERE)

P.S.: Bear in mind that other people who have filled this position are not to be believed, especially in regard to any alleged "psycho" behavior on my part.

P.P.S.: Read the back of this letter for the terms and conditions of this friendship. And welcome aboard.

(over)

TEMPORARY LICENSE

"Friendly" Fred Goodfriend
Commissioner of Interpersonal Relations

Height: _____
Weight: _____
Hair Color/Eye Color: _____
Best Qualities: _____

Approximate Date of Birth of Friendship: __/__/__

Signature: _____

EXPIRES: End of year or at the whim of issuer of card

BEST FRIEND
(Place your photo here.)

Once you have chosen your best friend, cut out this personal ID card and give it to him or her to carry at all times. Make sure your new pal fills in all the information about himself or herself.

Cut out this card and give it to your best friend after a few months of your friendship.

HELP ME...HELP YOU.

My goal is not only to meet but to exceed your expectations. I am constantly striving to improve the products and services that I offer you, my best friend. Your feedback is vital!

Please rate me for each of the following on a scale of one to five—one (1) being "low," or Benedict Arnold, five (5) being "high," or Best Friend Forever (BFF).

PRODUCT QUALITY:	1 (low)	2	3	4	5 (high)
Quality of gossip	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality of gifts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quantity of gifts	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality of e-mails	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Quality of snacks at my house	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

(over)

continued →

This card entitles bearer (You) to the designation of Best Friend of Me. In the event that issuer of card (Me) meets someone else who takes the place of the bearer of this card (You) and that person becomes Best Friend, this license is no longer valid. Card must be destroyed or returned to Me, and New Best Friend and Former Best Friend cannot despise each other or, worse yet, dump me and become Best Friends.

If, upon termination of Best Friendship, bearer of card throws fit, pouts, sulks, or otherwise makes issuer of card (Me) feel miserable, then bearer of card (that's You, remember) will not be reinstated as Best Friend for quite some time. In other words, bearer simply must learn to, like, DEAL!

Once you have chosen your best friend, cut out this personal ID card and give it to him or her to carry at all times.

Cut out this letter of congratulations and give it to your new best friend.

The terms and conditions of this friendship:

The Executive Best Friend of Me, hereinafter referred to as BF, agrees to the following terms and conditions in this friendship with me, hereinafter known as Friendee. BF will:

- Pledge absolute loyalty to Friendee in the face of teachers, bullies, parents, siblings, classmates, pets, vermin, and any law enforcement agencies.
- Guarantee a 30-second response time to instant messages and engage in a minimum of five phone calls a night with Friendee.
- Always pick Friendee first for teams when BF is captain. Otherwise, Friendee is not liable for last pickage.
- Tell Friendee any rumor, gossip, hearsay, innuendo, and the like first.
- Not reveal deepest, darkest secrets for 10 years minimum.

The benefits of friendship consist of:

- Health plan: Includes lots of sugary drinks and other healthful snacks
- Basking in glow and reflected glory of Friendee
- Free access to Friendee's:

_____ closet
_____ video games
_____ locker
_____ CD collection
_____ older sister's diary

- Membership in Cheese-of-the-Month Club
- No or low codependent payments
- Promotion to BFF (Best Friend Forever) if terms and conditions are upheld for six months

Cut out this card and give it to your best friend after a few months of your friendship.

CLEANLINESS:	1 (low)	2	3	4	5 (high)
Breath	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
General body odor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
With shoes off	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Frequency of nose picking	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

CUSTOMER SERVICE:	1 (low)	2	3	4	5 (high)
Response time to phone calls	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Efficiency in resolving problems	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability at all hours	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Willingness to lend stuff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Would you recommend this friend to others? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you have any other comments or questions, please write them here:

_____

_____

Thank you! Your comments are appreciated!

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Tricks of the TRAITORS

Does a possible traitor lurk inside every trusted friend?
Autumn Miller turned up stories on four turncoats.

Real

Talk About a Backstabber!

Marcus Brutus was a respected scholar, businessman, and soldier in ancient Rome. When Julius Caesar became the head of the government, Brutus swore to be loyal to him. In return, Caesar appointed his new friend as the governor of one of Rome's territories.

Soon after, Caesar started talking about making himself king. Brutus grew fearful that the Roman people would lose their freedom under a king. Many high-ranking citizens and government officials agreed and wanted to overthrow their power-hungry leader—but only if Brutus approved. Caesar's pal was torn, but he finally gave his consent. The group plotted to kill the ruler at a meeting set for March 15 in 44 BC.

When Caesar arrived at the meeting, he thought he was surrounded by his friends. But suddenly those allies took out their daggers and began to stab him. Centuries later, William Shakespeare wrote these famous final words for Caesar: *"Et tu, Brute?"*—Latin for "You, too, Brutus?"

Caught Redcoat-Handed

During the Revolutionary War, American general Benedict Arnold led several successful attacks against the British. Then, because his leg had been permanently injured in a battle, General George Washington gave him the equivalent of a desk job—command of the fort at West Point, New York. But Arnold grew bitter. He felt that his heroic deeds had not been sufficiently rewarded with generous promotions. So he decided to sell out his friends to the enemy. He offered information about West Point to the British to help them capture the fort. In exchange he would receive 20,000 British pounds.

In September 1780 the British sent an army officer to pick up the material. The redcoat had nearly made it back when American militiamen stopped him. They searched him and found the coded messages in his boots.

Benedict Arnold, knowing that he would be tried as a traitor, escaped the country. He ended up in England, where he lived out the rest of his life, broke and depressed.

continued →

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Name _____ Date of Birth _____
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If you are under 18 years old, have your parent or legal guardian sign this form. (Sign) (Print)

No purchase necessary to enter or win. Purchase will not improve your chances of winning. Sweepstakes begins on or about August 1, 2001 and ends on October 31, 2001. Open to legal U.S. residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia only. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited. **HOW TO ENTER:** On an Official Entry Form or 3" x 5" card handprint your full name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number and date of birth (parental name and signature required if a minor), and cut out and attach the flavor names from the packages of your two favorite Del Monte® *Fruit To-Go*™ flavors or write down the flavor names. **Mail completed Official Entry Form or 3" x 5" card in a stamped #10 envelope to: Del Monte® *Fruit To-Go*™ Back To School Sweepstakes, PO Box 6691, Chicago, IL 60680-6691.** LIMIT ONE SWEEPSTAKES ENTRY PER PERSON PER HOUSEHOLD PER ENVELOPE PER DAY. All entries must be postmarked by October 31, 2001 and received by November 2, 2001. Mechanically reproduced entries are void. Entries may be subject to verification prior to prize drawing. All entries become the property of the Sponsor and will not be returned. **PRIZE/ODDS:** Twenty (20) Grand Prizes: $500 in Sporting Goods Cash™ gift certificates. Fifty (50) First Prizes: $100 in Sporting Goods Cash™ gift certificates. Two Hundred (200) Second Prizes: $50 in Sporting Goods Cash™ gift certificates. Total Prize Retail Value $25,000. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of eligible entries received. **Many will enter, few will win.** Sporting Goods Cash™ gift certificates to be redeemable at over 9,000 participating Sporting Goods Cash™ retailers through December 31, 2002. **RANDOM DRAWING:** To be held on or about November 12, 2001 from all eligible entries received. Winners will be notified by mail or phone on or about November 19, 2001. Odds of winning are dependent upon the number of eligible entries received. To select the Prize winners. Decisions of the Sponsor and judges shall be final in all respects. **OFFICIAL RULES.** Send request for Official Rules. Entry constitutes agreement to Official Rules and use of name and likeness for publicity purposes. For Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Del Monte *Fruit To-Go*™ Official Rules, PO Box 6600 Chicago, IL 60680-6600 for receipt by October 31, 2001. Sponsored by Del Monte Foods, One Market, PO Box 193575, San Francisco, CA 94119-3575; and administered by FAC Services Group, L.P., 111 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601 © 2001 Del Monte Foods

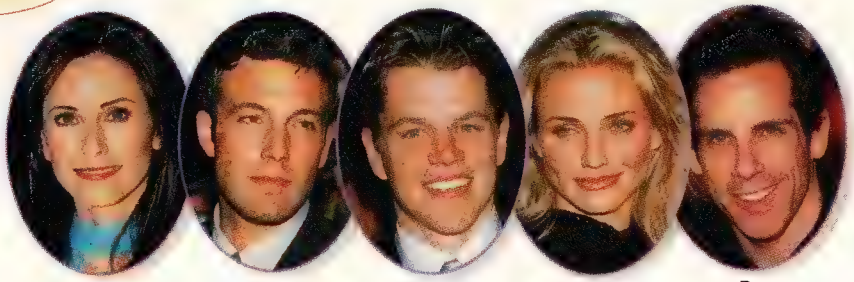
Reach for the Stars' Wallets

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio was fast friends with Dana Giacchetto, an investment manager. The two hung out at some of New York City's most expensive places. Leo practically lived at Dana's apartment. But soon he got wise to the fact that Dana was ripping off his buddies behind their backs.

Dana's job was to invest people's money, and he became friends with his more famous clients, including Ben Affleck, Cameron Diaz, and Courteney Cox Arquette. But while he was hanging with the stars, the stocks he had bought with their money lost big bucks.

To keep up appearances, Dana started using money from one friend's account to make up the losses in another friend's account. He also pinched some here and there for himself: $100,000 from Matt Damon's account to pay off bills, $250,000 from Ben Stiller's account to buy artwork. (Leo got his own money out before any of it disappeared.) All told, Dana stole $9.8 million.

Soon his celebrity pals began asking for their money back, but there wasn't enough left to pay everyone. Last year Dana's deceit was revealed in court. He was sentenced to nearly five years in prison and has to repay almost $10 million to his ex-clients.



Courteney Cox Arquette | Ben Affleck | Matt Damon | Cameron Diaz | Ben Stiller

FROM FAST PALS TO PAST PALS: Dana *(above, right)* at an outdoor café with then-best-bud Leonardo.

Leo, the phony is for you.

A Real *Mole* Model

When Republican George W. Bush decided to run for President, media consultant Mark McKinnon went to work for Bush. To help with the extra duties, Mark needed an assistant whom he could trust to keep the campaign's secrets. He found such a person in his close friend Juanita Yvette Lozano *(left)*. Mark and Yvette had known each other for years and she often baby-sat his children.

On the job, Yvette had access to 120 pages of notes on Bush's strategies for the fall presidential debates and a videotape of the candidate preparing for them. Just before the debates, a campaign adviser to Democratic nominee Al Gore received a mysterious box in the mail. Inside were the notes and videotape. He realized the items were stolen and immediately turned them over to the F.B.I. The agents traced the package back to Yvette.

Last June, Yvette admitted her guilt in court. She had lied to her friend Mark about being trustworthy. Yvette faces a sentence of up to one year in jail and a fine of up to $2,200. ❑

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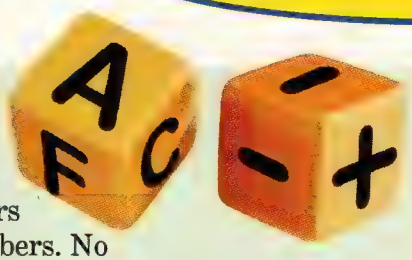

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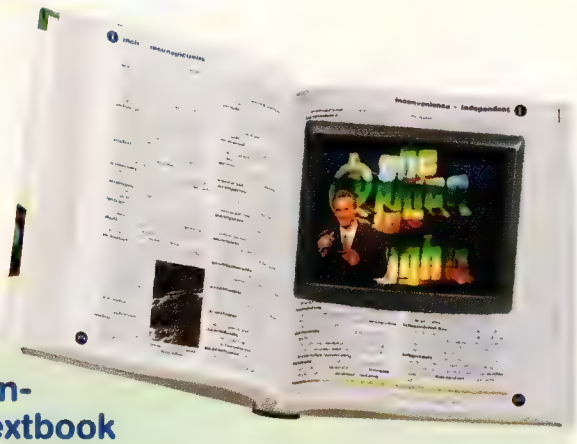

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STICKERS!

Dress up your notebook, your binder, your skateboard, or your anything else with these official Nick Mag stickers. (Accept no substitutes!) Just peel them off and stick them down. No spit required. (Turn to page 60 for more stickers.)

COLD FEET: Angle Inlet students pretend it's spring on a snowy day last March.

The Bear Ate My Homework

Most one-room schoolhouses have gone the way of the horse and buggy. But Steven Stern found a modern-day version that is one of a kind.

Real

The Northwest Angle is a remote, 150-square-mile chunk of Minnesota that is separated from the rest of the state by the vast Lake of the Woods. About 100 people live there, many on small islands in the lake. The closest large public school is 60 miles away. That's why a dozen or so kids in the Northwest Angle spend each school day together in one room.

Getting to the Angle Inlet School is not easy. In the fall and spring, most kids travel by boat along the lake. They often see moose and bear swimming by. In the winter, they ride snowmobiles across the frozen water. Their teacher, Linda Kastl, says that when she was hired the principal asked her if she had a strong arm. "Are the kids that unruly? Or do I have to haul wood?" she asked. He said, "No, you have to start snowmobiles after school."

The students at Angle Inlet are used to helping one another. Each morning, Linda puts all the assignments on the board for kindergarten through sixth grade.

GETTING THERE: The only way to reach the Northwest Angle region of Minnesota by land is to go through Canada.

While she works with one grade, other kids who need help ask older students. "It's like a family here," Linda observes.

The classroom also serves as the cafeteria—kids eat lunch at their desks—and as the gym. At recess, the students go outside (often to fish) unless the temperature is 30 or 40…or 60 below zero. "That's when electric lines start snapping," says Linda. "Things get pretty serious when it's sixty below." ❑

Lounge Lineup

While you're deciding where to sit at lunch, your teachers are deciding where to hang out in the teachers' lounge. Solve this puzzle by using the clues below and in the picture to figure out the only way the teachers can fit in the lounge. Write each teacher's letter in the blank next to the correct place. Answers on page 95.

by Tom Mitchell

The Lounge Regulars

A Bunsen Burns
SCIENCE

B Audra Even
MATH

C Di A. Gramm
LANGUAGE ARTS

D Reul D. Halles
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

E Roman M. Pyre
SOCIAL SCIENCE

F Barry Schweyte
PHYS ED

G Carrie A. Tune
MUSIC

H P. Casso
ART

I Como Esta
SPANISH

Clues

- There are only four places to sit: in the easy chair, in the rocking chair, at the computer station, and at the desk. There are only three places to stand: at the coffeemaker, the watercooler, or the gerbil cage. There are seven places and nine teachers—it's a good thing two aren't at school today.
- Di and Carrie are best friends and love to sit next to each other and chat.
- The assistant principal is working on a presentation with the music teacher and must be next to her.
- Teachers who post nasty notes about one another's subjects shouldn't be placed next to one another.
- Mr. Schweyte can't get *near* caffeine.
- Mr. Burns always checks his e-mail as soon as he enters the lounge.

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P U H L M R U D V L F T N S U
A N B R A I E N W E S O H S Q
S A I B I L M A D P E O E N I
T A B R E I S B A C T E R I A
E D K L M R O D D E L J E U K
R D M O L A R V F T N G E Q Y
I U W S O E H I B N J E U O P
T U K A R A S G P C B R U S H
U K L M R A D U V F T N G U F
C A V I T Y W M S O H I Q Y Z
B I L M A H F L U O R I D E L

WORD SEARCH
Find the Hidden Words

1. molar
2. plaque
3. cavity
4. bacteria
5. floss
6. brush
7. teeth
8. smile
9. fluoride
10. paste

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NICKELODEON MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2001

the COMICBOOK

WANNA
BITE
AN
OCTOPUS?
Trolli
SOUR BRITE
OCTOPUS
CANDYSTAND.com

THE UNCREDIBLY CONFABULATED TALES OF
LUCINDA ZIGGLES
OH BOY, RECESS!!
KING
BONK
VROOM!!
ALL RIGHT! FIRST ONE TO THE SLIDE!
PSSST... HEY, KID.
NEW RULE: TOLL SLIDE. 25¢, PLEASE!
PAY UP!
AND HOW.
REALLY?
BOY, I'LL SAY!
UNQUESTIONABLY!
WOULD WE PULL YOUR LEG?
TUG TUG
WELL, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR MILK, BUT IF THERE'S A TOLL...
MUCH OBLIGED!
CHA-CHING
WHEEE!
WOOOOSH
JEEPERS! MY MOM WILL NEVER BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL HER WHY I NEED MORE MONEY.
AHEM SWING TAX!

SpongeBob SquarePants
Bikini Bottom CLEANERS
OPEN
HOORAY! MY PANTS ARE CLEAN!
OH. NO!
THEY'RE ALL STRETCHED OUT!
THAT DOESN'T WORK.
NEITHER DOES THIS.
MEOW.
I'VE GOT IT!
SNAP!
ADD A HULA HOOP AND SUSPENDERS... AND VOILÀ!
STYLISH!
AND SO USEFUL!

Writer: Walt Dohrn. Art: Jay Lender. Lettering: Sherm Cohen. Coloring: Digital Chameleon. *SpongeBob SquarePants* created by Steve Hillenburg.

"Searching the Skies for Stephen the Shark"
Shark Hunters
IN OUTER SPACE
GRAMPA
JULIE
czekaj
GRAMPA AND JULIE, IN THEIR SEARCH FOR STEPHEN ON THE PLANET PURPLE, HAVE STUMBLED INTO THE LAIR OF JORDAN, THE EVIL SCIENTIST-MONSTER.
HA HA HA! (THAT'S DIABOLICAL LAUGHTER, BY THE WAY.) HA HA!
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF TYING YOU TO MY LATEST INVENTION.
...MY BAKING-SODA-AND-VINEGAR BOMB.
UM, DON'T WE GET A LAST MEAL?
I GUESS THAT WOULD BE THE DECENT THING TO DO.
I THINK I'VE GOT SOME LEFTOVER CHINESE FOOD IN THE FRIDGE.
MMM. PRETTY GOOD, BUT IT NEEDS PEPPER.
SHAKE
SHAKE
HHH...
...CHOO!
BLESS YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
UM, YOU SNEEZED, SO I SAID "BLESS YOU."
BWAHH!
SLURP
THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANYONE'S EVER SAID TO ME.

SNIFF. POLITENESS IS ALL TOO RARE THESE DAYS.
WOULD YOU CARE FOR A CUP OF HERBAL TEA?
TWO HOURS LATER...
Z Z Z
SIP
AND THIS IS ME AS DADDY WARBUCKS IN THE PURPLE PLANET COMMUNITY THEATER'S PRODUCTION OF "ANNIE." YOU SEE, I'M JUST A SCIENTIST-MONSTER TO PAY THE RENT.
WELL, WE SHOULD BE GOING. THANKS FOR THE TEA AND THE CONVERSATION AND, MOST OF ALL, FOR DEACTIVATING THE BOMB.
Z Z Z
SHAKE SHAKE
BEEP
BEEP
HEAD SHOTS
DEACTIVATING THE WHAT, NOW?
0:03
BEEP.
0:02
BEEP.
BEEP.
0:01
BLOOP
BLOOP
ESCAPE POD
RUMBLE
UH-OH. IT LOOKS AS IF GRAMPA AND JULIE ARE GOING OUT WITH A BANG! WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS IN THE NEXT EXPLOSIVE ISSUE!

the PRANKSTER
IN THE COMICS "SPECIAL EFFECTS" DEPARTMENT
WHY, I JUST TOOK THIS PIE OUT OF THE OVEN AND IT'S NOT WARM ANYMORE!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL? DID YOU FART?
THAT'S FUNNY. MY CAR WON'T SEEM TO GO.
I KNEW IT! YOU DID FART!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PLUMBING?
NO WATER IS COMING OUT.
DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED. IT'S PERFECTLY NATURAL.
AN OKAY JUMP, BUT OUR DIVER NEGLECTED THE REQUIRED SOMERSAULT.
SUDDENLY I'M ALL DIZZY...
AP
HA HA! YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME WITH AN "AP" GUN!
OUT COLD. MAYBE I'D BETTER CHANGE MY DIET.
Z
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Every move you make affects your life. Take control.
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But at the end of the game, only you defend your own goal line.
THINK • DON'T • SMOKE
PEEL
THINK DON'T SMOKE

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GIRLY-GIRL AND HER PAL CHUCKIE-BOY in "OWWIES"

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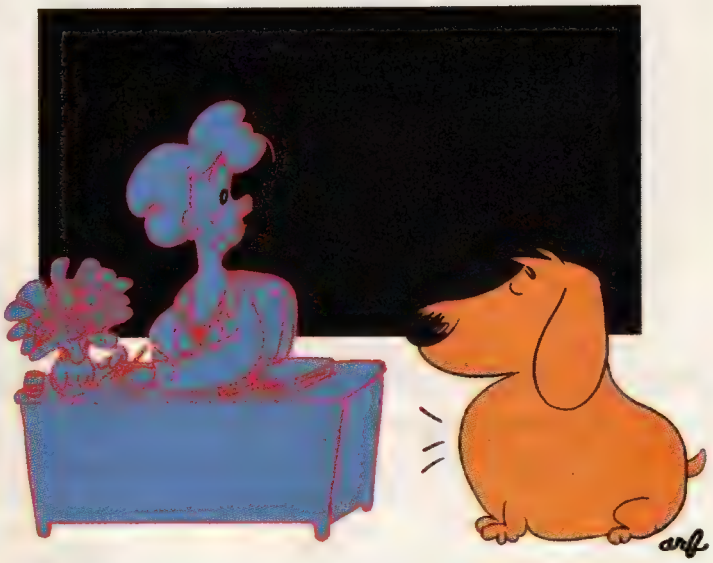


"The dog ate my homework!"

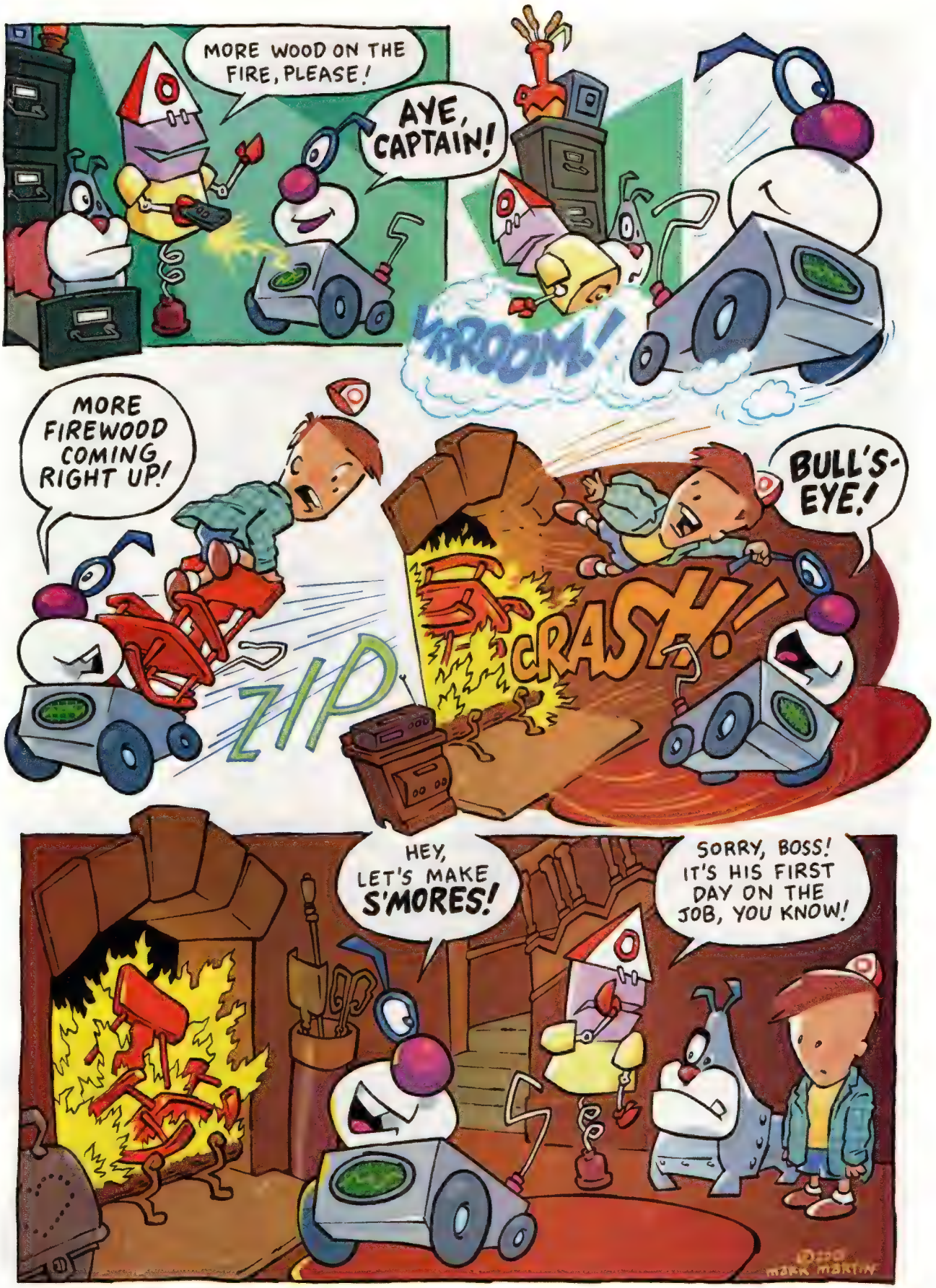
"You've been stepping on cracks, haven't you?"

"DON'T MAKE ME SEPARATE YOU TWO!"

Sam Hill & Ray-9

the Radio-Controlled Dog!

BRRR! I'M COLD!
I CAN'T ENJOY READING MY FAVORITE COMIC IN MY FAVORITE ROCKING CHAIR IF I'M COLD!
RAY-9, COULD YOU PUT SOME WOOD ON THE FIRE?
SORRY, BOSS, THIS COLD WEATHER HAS MY GEARS CLOGGED UP!
MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TRY OUT A LITTLE PROJECT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON--
SAM-2 THE RADIO-CONTROLLED BOY!
MOTOR OIL
HOW ABOUT PUTTING SOME WOOD ON THE FIRE, SAM-2?
ACTUALLY, RAY-9, I WAS THINKING THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO TRY OUT MY LATEST INVENTION!
RAY-9, MEET RAY-10!


MORE WOOD ON THE FIRE, PLEASE!
AYE, CAPTAIN!
VRROOM!
MORE FIREWOOD COMING RIGHT UP!
ZIP
CRASH!
BULL'S-EYE!
HEY, LET'S MAKE S'MORES!
SORRY, BOSS! IT'S HIS FIRST DAY ON THE JOB, YOU KNOW!
MARK MARTIN

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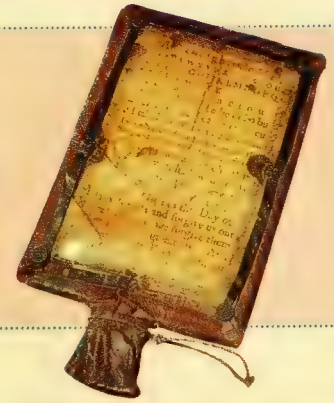
Old-School School

Is it hard to imagine school without books, paper, or lunch? Read on to see what school was like in the United States long before you were born.

Real

Get on the Horn

Paper was so expensive in the 1700s that schoolbooks for children were unheard of. Instead, students studied from a wooden paddle called a hornbook. A single sheet of precious paper, printed with the alphabet and a religious verse, was attached to the paddle underneath a thin, transparent layer of cow's horn. Kids tied the hornbooks to their belts to keep track of them.



Log on to School

Early American settlers built schoolhouses out of whatever materials were available. Brick and wood-frame school buildings were common, but some schools were built out of sod, logs, or tar paper; some were even tents. One thing nearly all had in common: no indoor plumbing. Kids had to use the outhouse when nature called.

A Clean Slate

Instead of wasting pricey paper, students in the 1800s practiced their writing and arithmetic on slates—small, portable blackboards made of a flat sheet of stone called slate. Children wrote with slate pencils and then wiped their answers away when they were finished. At the beginning of the school year, each student literally had a clean slate.

The Hot Seat

Many one-room schools were heated by a small stove. On chilly days, teachers would lead their students in exercises around the stove in order to get warm. Once seated, kids far from the stove were often cold, while those near the stove—no matter how well they were doing in class—found themselves in the hot seat.

B.Y.O. Lunch

Before the 1900s, few schools served lunch. Students either brought food in a lunch pail or went home to eat at lunchtime. Many children came from families too poor to provide food, so the federal government passed an act in 1946 to ensure that all children would get a nutritious midday meal. Soon every student was entitled to chipped beef, for better or worse.

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Feeling Harried?

Here are some telltale signs that you spent too much time reading Harry Potter books over the summer.

When you have a letter to mail, you leave it by the bird feeder.

You never go anywhere without a wand.

You're saving your allowance for a Nimbus 2000 broomstick.

Your favorite color is Sirius Black.

You insist on having your school photo retaken because it doesn't show your hand moving as you wave.

You tried using that old portrait of Aunt Edna as the doorkeeper to your bedroom.

You insult people by telling them they have Dementor breath.

You try to talk to the snakes at the zoo.

You draw a lightning bolt on your forehead as a fashion statement.

People come to you to get the correct pronunciation of Hermione.

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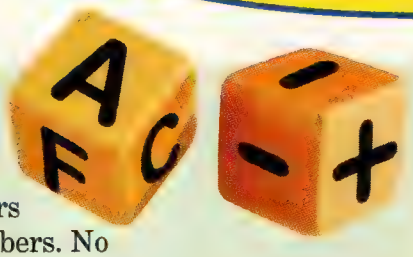

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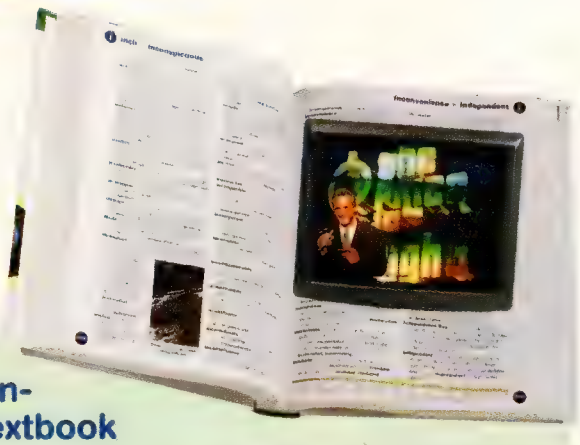

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PAR: Principal Alert Radar

Radar watch lets you know if the principal is approaching your classroom, what mood he or she is in, and if it's your fault. **$59.99**

Turn the page for more great items! ☛

more great items from **EZ-TEACHCO**

Personal Potty Chair

If you have trouble making it through a lesson without a bathroom break, you'll love our discreet under-the-chair portable potty. With built-in splash silencer. **$1,295**
For flusher, add an additional **$2,000**

Substitute Teacher Special!

Insta-Exit When you've completely lost control of the classroom, this handheld human launcher will let you escape through any open window and travel up to 15 miles. Powered by the heat of your own embarrassment and humiliation! **$4,500**

Anti-Diorama Pills

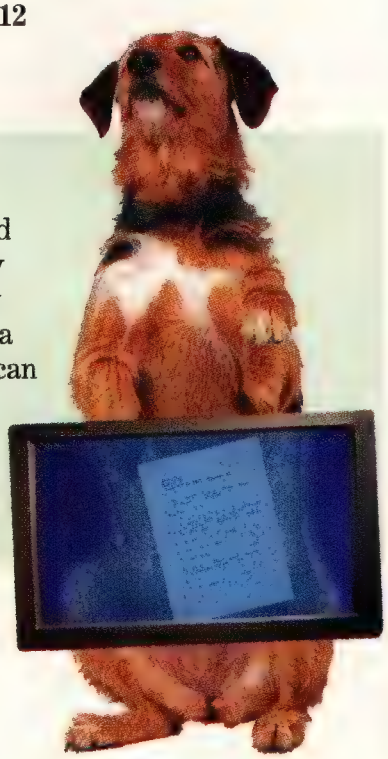
When the thought of grading one more diorama gives you stomach cramps, you need these fast-acting yet mild pills. Will not cause consternation. Works for PowerPoint presentations, too. **$9.95/100 tablets**

Chalk Loud...and carry a big stick.

Muffle the irritating squeak of the chalk, or heighten the noise when you want to really get their attention. White, lavender, or magenta. **$5.99/pack of 12**

Dog Scan

Tired of hearing that old excuse "The dog ate my homework"? Dog X-ray machine operates from a remote location so you can check Rover's tummy from your desk and catch persistent liars. **$5,999**



SmartyStrap

Keeps the obnoxious know-it-all student from answering every single question. Comfortable non-chafing nylon strap prevents student's arm from lifting above waist level. **$19.95**

Write Right

These pen and chalk holders give you impeccable penmanship, no matter how bad your handwriting. Available in Cursive or Print. **$24.99 each**

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On a Roll-Call Roll

As the school year begins, you can learn a lot about your new classmates by listening to how they answer roll call.

by Susan M. Clarke

"Here."
Students who respond this way have a firm grip on one of life's little essentials: They actually know where they are.

"Just call me Your Highness."
This person will be getting in trouble very shortly, so stay clear.

"Come on down!"
This indicates a person who watched a lot of *The Price Is Right* over the summer.

"Over here."
These fashionable trendsetters used to say "Here," but that was *sooo* last spring. This fall, they are totally *over* here.

"'Tis I."
This person is the literary sort, giddy with anticipation of reading Shakespeare in next period's English class.

"Greetings, O exalted one."
Someone is laying the groundwork to become the teacher's pet.

"I'd like to give shout-outs to my main peeps..."
Unfortunately, this person's best friends are in another classroom.

"Present."
Clever strategists begin using this up to a month before their birthday, brainwashing you into shopping for their gifts.

"The itsy-bitsy spider went up the waterspout."
Offer to escort this kindergartner back to the appropriate classroom.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

The editors of *The Otter Creek Times* sent us a copy of their back-to-school issue. We liked it so much that we decided to reprint it in Nick Mag. You may find yourself wishing, as we did, that you could enroll in Otter Creek Middle School.

The Otter Creek Times

The Journal of Record for Otter Creek Middle School

September 10, 2001

Abandoned Gerbil Is Now Gargantuan

After a summer of growth, Mr. Puff stands taller than many students.

Mr. Puff, a gerbil accidentally abandoned in the biology lab over summer break, did not die, as many students believe. Instead, he has grown to an astonishing length of more than five feet (head to tail), according to sources in the lab. "We can only speculate as to the causes of Puff's transformation," said science department spokesperson Diane Sect, "but my money is on all that glowing green stuff left in the terrarium at the end of the year."

When asked why the terrarium had not been properly cleaned and drained before summer break, custodian Pops Deegan only commented, "Hey, do I look like a biology teacher to you?"

New Detention Wing

Otter Creek's new detention center, designed by Dutch architect Rem Skoolhaus, will open next week. The 6,000-square-foot, glass-walled pyramid will relieve the overcrowding problem that has plagued the old second-floor detention room and make it easier to keep an eye on students, said Principal Dick Taytor.

They Spent the Summer Lying Around the House

Basil Canard and Alma Fibber celebrate change from F to A+.

Scandal rocked Otter Creek Middle School on the first day of school last week. It all started when Ms. Fabricant assigned her sixth graders an essay on how they had spent their summer vacations. Soon, the papers were piled on her desk like a stack of pancakes…or was it a stack of lies? In the first essay, Faye Bull, 11, claimed that she had "hit the winning home run in the Major League All-Star game." Ms. Fabricant was apparently unaware that children and females do not play in the majors.

Basil Canard claimed that on one sultry August afternoon he solved the world's hunger problem, invented a perpetual-motion machine, and ran a mile in 30 seconds. Alma Fibber wrote that aliens from Zantar had invaded her family's July 4th barbecue but that she had repulsed them with her brother's underwear. Soon Ms. Fabricant realized she had a problem on her hands worse than liver spots.

Five students were taken down to Assistant Principal Simon Degree III, where they confessed they had spent the summer indoors near the air conditioner, just chilling. Action was swift. Ms. Fabricant was asked to leave the school "indefinitely" and all the students in her class were given A-pluses.

"I hated writing that essay back in my day," Mr. Degree III said. "Kids should be rewarded for telling such fabulous whoppers!"

TODAY'S TEACHER MOODS

- **Mrs. Wiggett:** *sunny, warm*
- **Mr. Jiménez:** *sullen, dark*
- **Mr. Gore:** *nervous but eager*
- **Ms. Pinny:** *stormy, unpredictable*
- **Mr. DeVille:** *chilly, distant*
- **Ms. Fledderjohn:** *irritable*

Crackdown on Corridor Cops

Don't let that sweet face fool you—Tammy Tammany is one tough hall cop. The newly appointed Otter Creek Commissioner of Hallway Monitors means business. At her last school, West Gopher Gulch Elementary, Tammany caught a fourth grader using the water fountain to spray a hallway. Tammany had the tiny perp scrubbing floors with a toothbrush for the next six months.

Tough Tammy Tammany is determined to clean up hallway monitor corruption.

But Tammany might be just the breath of fresh air Otter Creek needs. Corruption, low morale, dirty badges, and lousy hallway posture had become the norm among this school's Keepers of the Corridors. Things busted open this past May when two hallway monitors were caught chewing the lard down at Daffer Doodle's Doughnut Hole on Otter Creek Road instead of walking their beat on Stairway A. It turned out they hadn't even paid for their crullers—they were on the take.

Holding a broom at her swearing-in ceremony last Tuesday, Tammany said, "We're talking a clean sweep here." The very next day, she instituted new policies for her monitors, which included fingernail and nostril inspection three times a day and no hanging around after school.

And now...no hallway monitors, either.

"Everyone quit," Tammy said, shoving a free jelly doughnut into her mouth.

BE PREPARED!

Here is the Pop Quiz Schedule for the week:

Monday: Sixth-grade math

Tuesday: Seventh-grade social studies. (But it doesn't count.)

Wednesday: None scheduled. (Or are there?)

Thursday: Sixth-grade English (only if the class won't settle down)

News Briefs

A Dent in the Otter Population

Ottie, the beloved bronze otter that graces the main entrance of the school, had his forehead dented over the summer, possibly by vandals from rival Muskrat Marsh Middle School. Rather than pay for costly repairs, Principal Taytor has decided to have the four other decorative otters on the building dented in the exact same place.

Beloved bronze otter is victim of vandals.

Pops Proud of Perfect Pail

Custodian Pops Deegan is the proud possessor of a newly purchased pail. "I've perpetually prayed for a pail this perfect," Pops proclaimed, his pate palpitating with pleasure as he pondered the pretty prize. "My past pails pale in comparison. This new pail promises the power to properly polish the premises," Pops pronounced.

Pops' pristine pail.

Student Exchange Rate Soars

The exchange rate for foreign students has soared so high that Otter Creek Middle School must now send three students to France in exchange for every one French student the school hosts.

Dodgeball Replaced With New Game: "Lovepillow"

The National Congress of Gym Teachers and Substitute Gym Teachers voted last week to replace the often brutal game of dodgeball with a kinder game known as lovepillow. In dodgeball, players stand in a circle and try to hit opponents inside the circle with a roughly textured rubber ball. In lovepillow, players covered from head to toe with soft down pillows try to hug opponents.

Some students and gym teachers lament this break with tradition. "Dodgeball helps kids develop the ability to dodge a ball," says Otter Creek gym teacher Rita Pinny. "Later in life, a kid may be walking down the street and a criminal might throw a ball at him or her. My students will be prepared to jump out of the way quickly. If students only know about pillows and hugging, then how will they be prepared for real life? Criminals aren't coming at you with pillows, I can tell you that!"

Ralph Shirts, an Otter Creek eighth grader, puts it this way: "You can't give some kid a bloody nose with a pillow. Or maybe you could, but it would take a long time."

At press time, Otter Creek's PTA chairperson, Amanda Jean Hugankiss, had no statement about the issue, but some local parents have vowed to remove their children from Otter Creek Middle School when lovepillow begins. Says local businessman Rick Rickard, "I will take my child out of that school system and throw rubber balls at him at home to make sure he gets the physical education he needs to compete in an international marketplace." Mr. Rickard has no children but reportedly owns a rubber-ball factory.

Will lovepillow replace dodgeball? Competitors in the new sport prepare to embrace in an exhibition match.

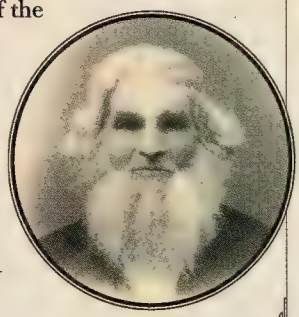
The happy victors, River Nyce and Feather Darling, celebrate their winning four-hug match.

New Teachers for 2001

VICTOR DeVILLE is Otter Creek's new eighth-grade science teacher. He comes to Otter Creek from Skunk Stream Middle School, where he attracted attention last year when four of his students failed to return from a time-travel expedition to the Paleolithic Era. Mr. DeVille, known as a tough grader and a sharp dresser, says he's looking forward to making new friends and life forms at Otter Creek.

Social studies teacher **ALBERT GORE** comes to Otter Creek after a stint in the federal government. Mr. Gore, who did a great deal of public speaking in his old job, says he decided to go into teaching because he thought that in the classroom someone might actually listen to him. "I also really needed a job," Mr. Gore added.

A LOOK BACK...



Jebediah Otter, the founder of the town of Otter Creek, was also the first principal of the Otter Creek School. Jebediah, like countless generations of the Otter family, was known for his plentiful hair, his playful nature, and especially his habit of frolicking for hours in the creek behind the family homestead.

Auction Notice

An auction of items found in lockers over the summer will be held at noon on September 12 in the cafeteria.

THE FOLLOWING UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE AUCTIONED:

42 pieces of chewed gum; one videotape entitled *How to Win Friends and Influence Teachers;* a jar containing eight planarian worms in a strong-smelling liquid; $52,000 in pennies; one moldy sandwich (8–9 months old); actor George Clooney; official 1992 answer key to the State Reading Exam for Grade 2; a BMW Z3 roadster (blue); a complete set of back issues of *Cracked* magazine, mint condition.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SANDY, are you out there? Summer lovin', had me a blast, summer lovin' happened so fast. E-mail me at greasedlightnin@onj.not.

LOST: My summer tan. Anyone seen it? Bronze and peeling. Need it back in time for my date. Will pay top dollar. Sentimental value only. Call 555-0SPF.

EARN EXTRA MONEY
Prechew pencils for nervous students who are too busy to chomp on their own. See Mr. Eberhard Faber in supply room #2.

FOR SALE: Used pail. Professional custodial quality. Original owner. Slight odor. See Pops at the mop closet.

Dr. Hookey's
Quack Notes

Tired of forging notes from your parents? My handwriting is not only illegible, it's authentic. Free upgrades: I'll bump up your sniffles to pneumonia, your sore arm to a major fracture. No ailment too serious!

Call 555-QUAK.

$5 $5

Otter Creek Students!

This coupon redeemable for $5 if you do not hang out in front of, behind, or inside our store before, after, or during school hours.

Otter Creek Stop & Plop

$5 $5

School-Haul Rent-a-Trailer

Too many books to carry?

Lease one of our 10-foot trailers and take the strain off your back. Or try our Tote 'Em Service: Strong, reliable men and women will carry your books to school, home, or the library. Call for rates: 555-HAUL.

Can you change the grade from a **B** to an **A** in one step?

B

____

(Answer next year.)

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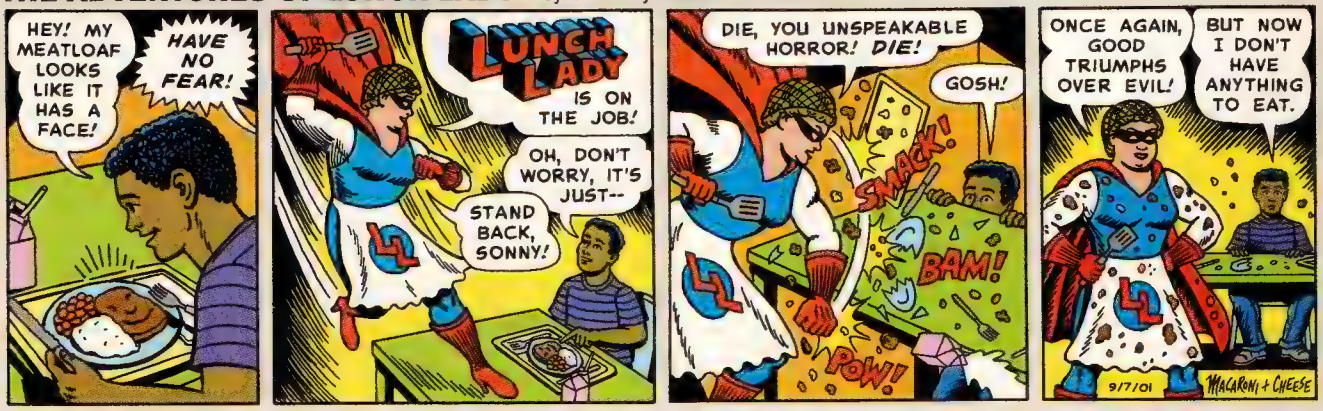
Syndicated by **Muskrat Features Inc.**



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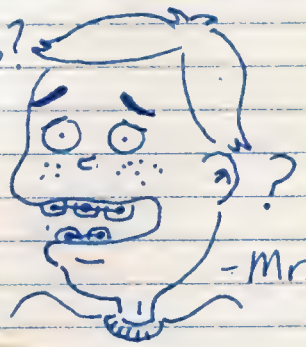
The Incredible Return of

TOP-SECRET TEACHERS' NOTES

These notes found in the teachers' lounge were confiscated by a stern vice-principal, who sold them to Nick Mag to supplement his meager salary.

Mr. Anderson:

When smart kids ask me questions I can't answer, I usually say, "That's an interesting question" or "We'll come back to that" or "Let's stay on the subject right now." But my students are starting to figure out that I'm just bluffing. Any suggestions?

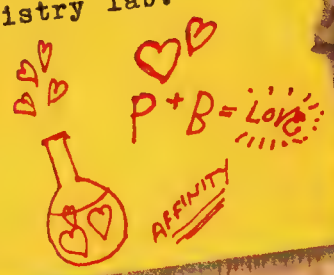


– Mr. Murray

Mr. Peach:

I think you've got class,
And I know you won't blab.
So meet me at 5
In the chemistry lab.

Ms. Bohr



MS. LANGTREE,
CAN I borrow your iron and ironing board? Parent-teacher conferences are coming up and I can't let those moms and dads think I look like this in school every day!

– Mr. Prohaska

P.S. THANKS!

CLARA:

DOES MY TIE MATCH MY NOSE AND EAR HAIR TODAY?

– MR. CLIPPER

Dear Mrs. Prune,
I got a frog from the bio lab if you're hungry. Tastes just like chicken.

Just kidding

Sam Anella

Dear Principal Peeler,
I know it's only September, but I was wondering if I could take a LITTLE vacation time?
Starting tomorrow

HARRIED N. FRAYED

Mrs. W,
Today I got Matt Cibula to clap the erasers and Debbie Zeidenberg to wash the blackboard and Stevie De Stefano to run the VCR. Now if I could just get these kids to teach Earth Science, I wouldn't have to do anything!

Ms. Mantle

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No purchase Necessary. For complete details, see official rules elsewhere in this publication.

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NICKELODEON

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SWEEPSTAKES OFFICIAL RULES

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. 2. TO ENTER THE SWEEPSTAKES: Get your parent or legal guardian's permission and either i) complete and mail an official entry form available on packages of participating Kraft and Nabisco products for a limited time, while supplies last or ii) hand print your complete name, address, city, state, zip code, daytime phone number, age and name of your school on at least a 3 1/2" x 5" postcard and mail to:

Nick Takes Over Your School Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 4810
Orlando, FL 32802

Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be hand printed and mailed separately. Express overnight and faxed entries will not be accepted. Entrants must be between the ages of 6 and 15 by date of each Grand Prize Winner selection. Limit one prize per family/household. Entries must be received at the above address no later than November 1, 2001. Four Grand Prize Winners will be selected by the specified dates below. Entries that are illegible, incomplete, printed by machine or otherwise mechanically reproduced will not be accepted. Sweepstakes Sponsors are not responsible for entries that may be lost, delayed, mutilated or misdirected or for typographical errors in the entry forms or rules. **3.** Sweepstakes commences August 1, 2001 and ends October 25, 2001. **4. THE CONCEPT OF THE SWEEPSTAKES:** Grand Prize Winners will be selected in four (4) separate random drawings. On each of the following days one winner will be chosen by an independent judging organization from among all qualified entries received. The dates of the drawings are as follows: September 11, September 25, October 8, November 1, 2001. All entries will be automatically entered into each drawing if received by selection date. Grand Prize Winners will be notified within five (5) business days of the drawing. Odds of winning will depend on the total number of qualified entries received. Many will enter, few will win. **5. PRIZES ARE AS FOLLOWS:** Four (4) Grand Prizes: Winner will be awarded a "Nick Takes Over Your School" event (the "Event") at winner's school to include Nickelodeon's interactive program Slimetime Live, Nickelodeon celebrities, a musical performance, and a $1,000.00 check to the Grand Prize Winner. This Event is strictly for promotional purposes. A donation in the amount of $5,000.00 will also be made to the Grand Prize Winner's school. Nickelodeon has the right to change, alter and/or replace any element of the Event. Estimated retail value of each Grand Prize $6,000.00. Total estimated retail value of all Grand Prizes $24,000. **6.** Prizes are non-transferable and have no cash equivalent except as specified. Substitution of prizes by any winner is prohibited. MTV Networks ("MTVN") reserves the right in its sole discretion to substitute any prizes with prizes of comparable value. In the event any winner is unable to be notified, an alternate winner will be selected from among all of the remaining entries. Grand Prize Winners' parent or legal guardian and school shall be solely responsible for all insurance and applicable federal, state and local taxes. School of Grand Prize Winners must consent to participation in order for Grand Prize to be awarded. Dates of the Events will be solely determined by Sponsors. If the school is unable to host an Event for any reason, Grand Prize will be deemed forfeited and an alternate winner and school will be selected. **7.** Sweepstakes open to residents of the contiguous United States who are between the ages of 6 and 15 by date of each Grand Prize Winner selection. Sweepstakes void in Puerto Rico and where prohibited or restricted by law. Sweepstakes not open to employees and their immediate families of MTV Networks, Viacom International Inc., Kraft Foods Inc., their parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies, licensees, advertising and promotional agencies, the independent judging organization, printing agents and any other sponsors (the "Sponsors"). Winners must prove eligibility. Parent of Grand Prize Winners and school of Grand Prize Winners must sign an affidavit (i) releasing Sponsors from any liability, claims, demands, and cause of action from personal injury and/or damage, theft, or loss suffered in connection with this sweepstakes or the use or acceptance of the prizes or any portion thereof to be eligible; and (ii) where permitted by law, granting Sponsors the right to use the winner's name, voice, and likeness and name and photos of the Grand Prize Winner's school for advertising and publicity purposes without additional compensation. Entry into sweepstakes constitutes Grand Prize Winner's parent or legal guardian and Grand Prize Winner's school agreement to sign such releases. Winner's receipt of any of the prize components of this sweepstakes is conditioned upon compliance with any and all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, and regulations. Noncompliance will result in disqualification of winner. All entries become the property of Sponsors and will not be acknowledged or returned. Winners and their parent or legal guardian will be required within five (5) business days to sign and return affidavits of eligibility and compliance with official rules and all legal documents which Sponsors may require (including a W-9 tax form). Noncompliance within this time period will result in disqualification and an alternate winner will be selected. **8.** For a list of winners and/or a copy of these rules, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

MTV Networks
1515 Broadway, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10036
Attn: Nick Takes Over Your School Sweepstakes

All requests for list of winners or a copy of these rules must be received by November 30, 2001.
9. SPONSORS: MTV Networks, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036; Kraft Foods Inc., Three Lakes Drive, Northfield, IL 60093

BACK TO SCHOOL INSTANT WIN GAME OFFICIAL RULES – NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

1. HOW TO PLAY: Starting on or about August 1, 2001, look for the Official Game Piece on or inside specially-marked packages of Kraft® Macaroni & Cheese, Nabisco® Fruit Snacks, Nabisco® Crackers and Cookies, Post® Cereal, Polly-O® Cheese, Handi-Snacks® and Oscar Mayer® products. If the Official Game Piece reads "You are a Prize Winner," you are the potential winner of the specified prize, subject to verification and these Official Rules. Non-winning packages of some participating brands do not contain a game piece. See details on packages of participating products for details. Other non-winning packages will reveal a "Sorry" message. **2. CLAIMS:** To claim your prize (pending verification), mail the original Official Game Piece along with a 3" x 5" card on which you have legibly printed (or typed) your full name, date of birth, complete address (with zip code), day/evening telephone numbers and if you are a minor include the full name of your parent/legal guardian, in a postage pre-paid envelope to: Back to School Game Claims, P.O. Box 466066, Lawrenceville, GA 30042-6066. All prize claims must be received by July 31, 2002, or prize will be forfeited. Grand Prize claims should be sent via Registered Mail, return receipt requested. All prize claims are subject to verification. All claims submitted become the sole property of Kraft Foods, Inc. (Sponsor). Any Game Piece received that is tampered with, illegible, mutilated, reproduced, contains printing or other errors, obtained where prohibited or not obtained legitimately, will be null and void and ineligible for a prize. Liability for an irregular Game Piece is limited to replacement of the Game Piece with another, while supplies last. Sponsor and MTV Networks and their affiliated companies are not responsible for printing, distribution or production errors or for lost, late, illegible, postage due or misdirected mail. **3. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** For a free Game Piece and for a copy of the Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: Back to School Game Piece, P.O. Box 466065, Lawrenceville, GA 30042-6065. Requests must be postmarked by July 10, 2002 and received by July 17, 2002. Residents of VT may omit return postage. Limit one request per envelope, mailed separately. **4. PRIZES/ODDS:** 305 Grand Prizes- $500 Cash; Odds: 1:407,011. 3,048 First Prizes- $100 Cash; Odds: 1:40,728. 12,192 Second Prizes- $25 Cash; Odds: 1:10,182. 152,400 Third Prizes- $5 Cash; Odds: 1:815. Total value of all prizes: $1,524,100. Unclaimed prizes will not be awarded. **5. GENERAL RULES:** Game open to U.S. residents, except employees of Kraft Foods, Inc., MTV Networks, their parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies, independent contractors, individuals engaged in the development/production/distribution of materials for the game, Game Piece printers, persons living in the same household, and the immediate families of each. Void where prohibited. All federal, state and local laws apply. All taxes are the sole responsibility of winners. Winners will be notified by mail. If the winner is a minor, prize will be awarded in the name of parent or legal guardian of the winner. Potential prize winners, or if winner is a minor, winner's parent or legal guardian, may be required to sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility, Release of Liability and where legal, a Publicity Release within 21 days of attempted delivery or prize may be forfeited. Limit one prize per family/household. No substitutions or transfers of prizes permitted. By entering, participants agree to abide by and be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the independent judging organization and the Sponsor, whose decisions are final in all matters. If due to a printing or other error, more prizes are claimed than intended to be awarded according to Rule 4, remaining prize(s) will be awarded in a random drawing from among all prize claims received. In no event will Sponsor be liable for more than the stated number of prizes in Rule 4. Acceptance of prize offered constitutes permission to use winner's name, address (city, state), voice and/or likeness and statements attributed to winner for advertising/trade purposes without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. **6. WAIVER:** By entering this promotion, participant waives all rights to claim punitive, incidental and/or consequential damages, attorneys' fees or any damages other than actual out-of-pocket costs incurred to enter against Sponsor or MTV Networks. **7. WINNERS' LIST:** For the names of the major prize winners, available after September 30, 2002, send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: Back to School Winners, P.O. Box 466083, Lawrenceville, GA 30042-6083. **8. SPONSOR:** Kraft Foods, Inc., Northfield, IL 60093.

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The Writing Is on the Redwall

Real

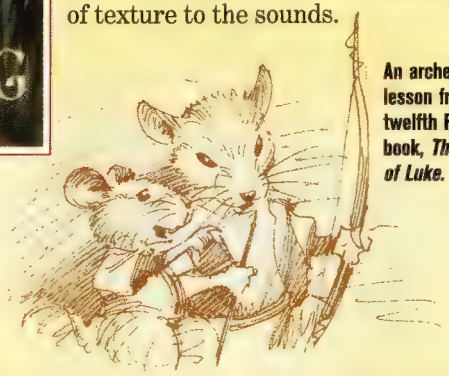
British writer Brian Jacques (pronounced jakes) is the creator of the Redwall books, stories of a medieval world inhabited by warrior mice, murderous rats, and heroic rabbits. The fourteenth book in the series, *Taggerung*, is the story of an otter (named Taggerung) who, though raised by a band of thieving vermin, grows up to become a great hero. We spoke with Brian about his life as a teller of animal tales.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: When did you first realize you were a good writer?

BRIAN JACQUES: When I was ten, the teachers at my school gave us a subject to write about: "the peculiarities of animals." All the other kids were writing things like "I've got a pussycat that can open a door with its paw." I had more imagination than that. I could see this bird cleaning a crocodile's teeth, so that's what I wrote a story about. The teacher read it and said to me, "Boys of ten cannot write like this. Where did you copy it from?" I said, "I never copied it." "You know," he said, "if you admit that you copied it, you can go and sit down. If you stand there and defy me and lie to me, I'll cane you." I said, "I'm not lying," and he gave me two whacks with the cane. I didn't care. I mean, I knew I could write.

Your books have so many characters. How do you go about inventing new names, such as Taggerung?

I wanted a heroic name like Hercules. I thought, "Taggerung. Now, if you had a name like that, there are not many people who would mess with you." In one of my books there's a character named Baby Wallow. And you can imagine someone named that to be small, fat, and fluffy, can't you? So it's just using your imagination and giving a bit of texture to the sounds.



An archery lesson from the twelfth Redwall book, *The Legend of Luke.*

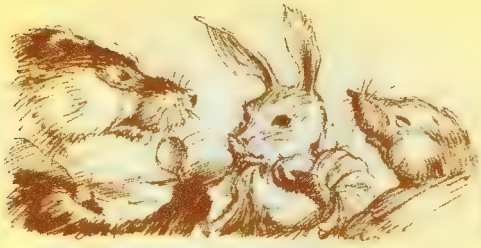


Illustration from *Lord Brocktree,* the thirteenth Redwall book.

It's sometimes hard to imagine a mouse holding a sword or sharing living space with a bigger animal such as a badger. How big are the animals in Redwall?

The animals are as big or as small as you want them to be in your imagination. There are no dimensions in my books. I never have a wall "a hundred feet high and thirty feet thick." Instead the wall is "forbiddingly high and massively thick."

What's the most interesting suggestion one of your readers has made to you?

I have arthritis in one of my fingers, and while I'm signing books I have to take breaks to ice my hand. I was icing my hand one time and this lad came up and said [like a pirate], "Arr, mate. Be your hand hurting you?" And I said, "Aye, my hand is hurting me." He said, "Well, why don't you get it chopped off and have a hook put on and have a little bottle of ink to sign the books with?" I thought, what a splendid idea!

How long would Mickey Mouse last in a fight against one of the mice of Redwall?

Oh, I don't think he'd live. Poor Mickey. ❑

I'm a lover, not a fighter.

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Way Off Base

You probably can't pitch like Pedro Martinez or hit like Mark McGwire, but if you're up on baseball slang you still might be welcome in the dugout. See if you can guess which of the phrases in each pair is correct baseball slang. Answers on page 95.

1 When there are runners on all the bases, you can say:
a. the bases are juiced.
b. the Three Little Bears are all in their beds.

2 Another term for a fastball is:
a. a heater.
b. Big Aunt Mabel.

3 Zeros on the scoreboard are often referred to as:
a. buffalo chips.
b. goose eggs.

4 A term for a pitch that comes dangerously close to the batter's head is:
a. the Sideburn Symphony Orchestra.
b. chin music.

5 A double is also known as:
a. two eggs over easy.
b. a two-base knock.

6 The pitcher's mound can also be called:
a. Mount St. Clemens.
b. the hill.

7 When a player hits a single, double, triple, and home run all in one game, he has:
a. hit for the cycle.
b. outgrown his training wheels.

8 Third base is also known as:
a. Bedpan Alley.
b. the hot corner.

9 A term for a pitch that hits a batter is:
a. a beanball.
b. franks and brains.

Real

Useful Foreign Phrases

Impress your classmates with these handy Latin phrases.

I'll have the Caesar salad.
Moretum Caesareum habebo.
more-AY-toom KYE-sar-ay-um ha-BAY-bow.

The dog ate my homework.
Canis meum opus edit.
KAHN-iss MAY-um OH-pus AY-dit.

Will assembly be at the Colosseum today?
Conveniatne hodie conventus in Colosseo?
kahn-wen-ee-AHT-nay HOE-dee-ay kahn-WEN-tus in ko-LOSS-ay-oh?

Where can I park my chariot?
Ubi currum mihi ponere licet?
OO-bee KOOR-um MEE-hee PONE-er-a LICK-et?

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Independent

Real

We met up with Destiny's Child–Beyoncé Knowles, Kelly Rowland, and Michelle Williams–to get the scoop on their thrills, chills, and ills.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: Is it hard to sing and dance at the same time when you're on stage?
BEYONCÉ KNOWLES: We've learned to base our dance routines on the songs. When we're singing, we'll do something simple. We do a lot of our own choreography, so we know what we can do while we're singing so that we don't sound like we're jumping up and down. But it does get hard, especially when we're singing something really fast like "Bugaboo."

Do you still get nervous before you perform?
MICHELLE WILLIAMS: At the Grammys, we were all shaking. We've done millions of other awards shows, but the Grammys was the worst.
KELLY ROWLAND: I don't know what our problem was.
BEYONCÉ: It was the *Grammys.*

THE FIRST FOURSOME: Destiny's Child has seen lots of changes over the years. Here they are in 1998 *(left to right):* Kelly Rowland, Beyoncé Knowles, LaTavia Roberson, and LeToya Luckett.

Does the size of the crowd affect how nervous you get?
BEYONCÉ: Not really the size of the crowd, but the people who are in the crowd. And our shoes. We wear stilettos [very high-heeled shoes] on stage, but when we're rehearsing we have on tennis shoes. When you're walking down those steps in stilettos, it makes you nervous.

IN CONCERT *(left to right):* Kelly, Beyoncé, and Michelle.

Are there any instruments you would like to learn to play?
BEYONCÉ: I'm going to learn the acoustic guitar this summer on tour.
KELLY: I actually bought a bass and I would love to learn how to play it, but I need to get the urge. I have to see someone really get down on the bass.
MICHELLE: I would love to learn how to play the drums better and to at least learn basic piano chords.

Have you ever had an embarrassing performance?
BEYONCÉ: I was doing a routine and got really excited. I jumped up and down, and when I put my hands up, my top totally blew open and I just ran off the stage. The girls didn't know what happened.

When something goes wrong during a performance, does it get you down?
BEYONCÉ: Well, not when your top falls off.

Women

MICHELLE: No. But if we hit a bad note or have a bad vocal performance—
KELLY: [It bothers us] because we always like to be focused and we like to always be the best.

Who would you like to do a song with?
BEYONCÉ: Nelly Furtado.
MICHELLE: U2, Aerosmith. I'd like to work with Michael Jackson, Lauryn Hill, Stevie Wonder—that would be awesome.

How do you decide who wears what?
BEYONCÉ: Sometimes it's based on our hair color. Michelle's hair has a purple and bluish tint, so she wears those colors; Kelly's hair is red, so she wears the pinks and purples; and my hair is blond, so I wear the yellow ones.

SPOT ON: Kelly, Beyoncé, and Michelle.

Did anything embarrassing ever happen when you were a kid?
BEYONCÉ: This might be kind of gross, but my mom had some herbal tea that she used to drink, and it made you use the restroom. I was in seventh grade and I used to love Lipton tea, and one time we switched by accident. I got hers and she got mine. People knew what was going on. It was terrible! I was in the bathroom all day.

What do you sing in the shower?
KELLY: "Lookin' for Love [in All the Wrong Places]."
BEYONCÉ: Mariah Carey songs—"Vision of Love."
MICHELLE: Lately, I love Chicago, and I've been singing "Hard to Say I'm Sorry." That's like the ultimate song. ❑

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Anglerfish

What are they?

Large-jawed, flat-bodied fish that spend most of their time at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean along the coastlines of Europe and North America. The many species of anglerfish are found at depths of six to 1,600 feet. The females of the smaller species are about four inches long. In larger species they can grow to six feet. The males are usually much smaller than the females, sometimes only one-tenth the size.

Why are they called anglerfish?

An angler is a person who fishes. The anglerfish gets its name from a spine that grows out of its back and can hang like a fishing rod in front of its toothy mouth. The fish's rod even has a fleshy, worm-like lure at the end. The anglerfish hides in plant growth or under dirt, twitching its spine to attract unsuspecting prey.

What do they eat?

All kinds of sea creatures, including dogfish, rays, and conger eels make a meal for an anglerfish. With their large mouths and stretchy stomachs, many anglers are able to eat fish twice their own size. Some have even attacked seabirds on the surface of the water.

Not *eggs*-actly a small family

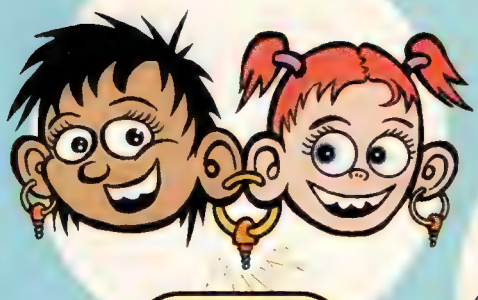
Anglerfish breed from spring to early autumn. During this time, the females lay egg masses in the form of large gel-like sheets that float on the water's surface. One spawning can contain as many as a million eggs, and a single sheet of eggs can be as wide as 32 feet. Some of these egg rafts have been mistaken for huge sea creatures.

Joined at the fin

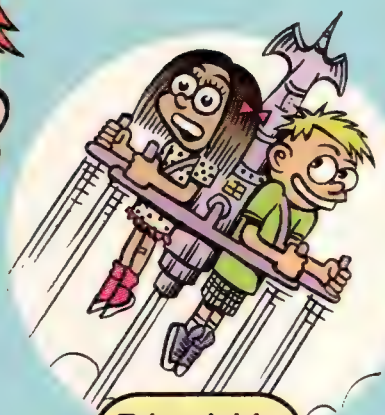
To survive, the small males of many angler species will bite onto and attach themselves to the females. They remain connected and dependent on their female hosts for the rest of their lives. ❑

Joined at the Hoop

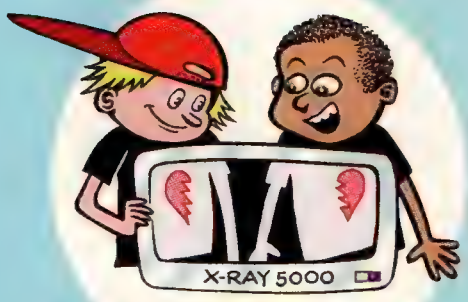
When you want to display a symbol of close friendship, you and your best bud can wear the usual friendship bracelets or half-a-heart necklaces. For a fresher way to say you're best friends forever, try one of these more innovative symbols.



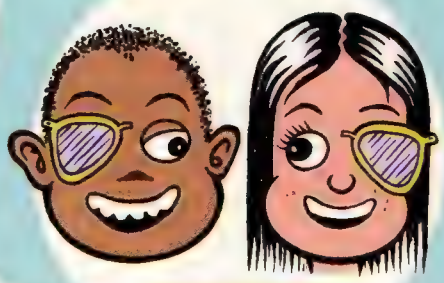
Friendship Earring



Friendship Jet Pack



Friendship Heart



Friendship Eyeglasses

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CHECK OUT THESE ADVERTISERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE.

Morph Than Meets the Eye

Since her love "don't cost a thing" and his album, *Return of Dragon,* will cost you cash, we wanted to see what would happen if we morphed J. Lo and Sisqo.

morphed by Bill Greer

What's New on Nick

Real

HANGIN' WITH THE HAWK

Will skateboarder Tony Hawk get hit with the green goo on ***SlimeTime Live***? You'll find out Monday, September 3, at 4 PM. Then stay tuned at 5 PM to see if Otto, Reggie, Twister, and Sam can track down Tony on a new episode of ***Rocket Power***, starring the Hawkman himself *(left, with Otto)*.

LOOSE CANNON

Was that the sound of a Cannon? ***The Nick Cannon Show*** blasts off this fall when Nick takes his wild and crazy comedy on the road, pulling pranks on people all over the country and catching them on video. Can you keep up with him?

Shows air one hour earlier in the central time zone. Show times are subject to change. Check www.nick.com, America Online (keyword: nick), or local listings for details.

NICK.COM NEWS

CLICK FOR YOUR PICK

Check out the Music area of nick.com to vote for your favorite music video on *Nick Video Picks.* Weekly winners will air every Sunday at 8:30 PM in TEENick.

SOMETHING'S FISHY

Paddle over to the Games area of nick.com for Nick-O-Quarium, where you can create and take care of your own virtual fish.

TUNES FOR THOUGHT

Catch updates about your favorite musicians in SoundScoop. Go to the Music area of nick.com to read interviews, watch music videos, and download wallpaper for your computer featuring a variety of pop stars.

GENIUS AT WORK

Get the latest about Jimmy Neutron at jimmyneutron.com. Play new games, learn about Jimmy and his friends, and take a look at his most recent inventions.

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It's Party Time

Singer Aaron Carter may still be on his way to a town near you during the TEENick Presents Aaron's Party Tour. The A*Teens and Aaron's sister Leslie will also be taking the stage. Before the tour, we got the 13-year-old to go on the record about his life on and off the road.

Gadget he can't do without:
Game Boy

One thing he really loves to do:
"I love to cook, but I just can't do it well. One thing I *can* cook very well is mahimahi [a fish]. I put flour and olive oil on it, then deep-fry it."

Best subject in school:
"My best subject is math and my worst subject is math. It depends on my mood *[laughs]*."

Favorite video game:
The Legend of Zelda

Number of hours Aaron rehearsed every day before the tour:
"Nine, but we had a three-hour lunch break and other breaks, so it was really about five hours of work."

Favorite on-the-road munchies:
Oreo cookies

People Aaron would like to invite to his party:
"Jennifer Love Hewitt and Henry Winkler. Definitely not my mom and dad, because they'd ruin it. And definitely not my brother, Nick, because he'd take all the girls."

Best thing about touring:
"Going to a lot of cool places."

Whose party he'd like to be invited to:
Janet Jackson's

Worst thing about touring:
"Being away from my family; but they'll be coming with me on this tour."

Favorite country to perform in:
Japan. "It's a really different culture. During a concert, everyone sits. I had to tell them to stand up."

Favorite item of clothing:
His beach pants

Artists he'd like to record with:
Destiny's Child

Instruments he plays:
Drums, guitar, bass, keyboards, and piano

How he spends his free time:
Hanging out and going to the movies

▼ Carefully tear out this page along the dotted line. ▼

· September ·

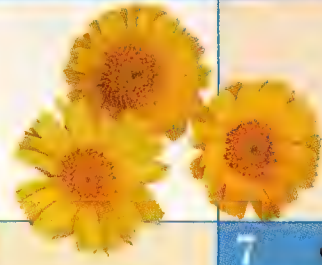
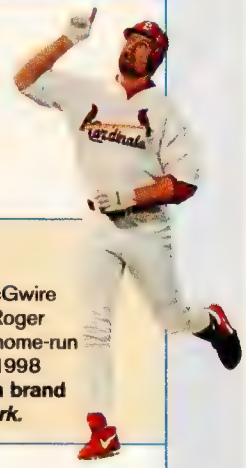
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Real	September is Fall Hat Month.		Nickelodeon magazine			1 
2 U.S. Treasury Department established, 1789 **This is a day to treasure.**	3 LABOR DAY	4 Damon Wayans, actor, born, 1960 **How much did he *Wayans* at birth?**	5 Peter the Great of Russia imposes a tax on beards, 1698 **People figured out how to *shave* on their taxes.**	6 Yellow Daisy Festival begins in Stone Mountain, Georgia **Will they be *daisy* and confused?**	7 **Hats Off Fact #1:** The first person to pull a rabbit out of a hat was Louis Comte, an entertainer in France, in 1814.	8 Mark McGwire breaks Roger Maris's home-run record, 1998 **He set a brand new *Mark*.**
9 Biscuits and Gravy Week begins **Get on the biscuits-and-gravy train.**	10 Ryan Phillippe, actor, born, 1974 **Back then he was *Cryin'* Phillippe.**		12 **Hats Off Fact #2:** John B. Stetson created the first cowboy hat in 1865.	13 Jean Smart, actress, born, 1959 **She has Smart genes.**	14 Festival of the Vine begins in Geneva, Illinois **They'll be climbing the walls.**	15 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin, 1928 **He broke the *mold*.**
16	17 **Hats Off Fact #3:** A ten-gallon hat actually holds only three quarters of a gallon. ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS	18 Independence Day in Chile **It's a day to *Chile* out.**		20 National Student Day **Bring yourself an apple.**	21	22 Elephant Appreciation Day **Never forget.**
23 30	24 F. Scott Fitzgerald, author, born, 1896 **Was he the Great Gats*baby*?**	25 Catherine Zeta-Jones, actress, born, 1969 **She's got the best *Zeta* in the house.**	26 YOM KIPPUR BEGINS	27 Ohio Pumpkin Festival begins in Barnesville, Ohio **Don't be a lumpkin, grow a pumpkin.**	28	29 **Hats Off Fact #4:** In order to keep British hatters in business, the Hat Act of 1732 forbade American colonists from making hats.

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ILLUSTRATION: Cover: Jay Lender (SpongeBob); color by Digital Chameleon (SpongeBob); *SpongeBob SquarePants* created by Steve Hillenburg. **14:** Harry Campbell. **21:** M. Wartella. **25–6:** Rodica Prato. **37:** Gary Hallgren (mucus); Jane Sanders (reinforcements). **38–9:** Marcellus Hall. **41:** Aaron Augenblick (cover); Andy Ristaino (Lucinda Ziggles); Kaz (corner box lettering). **43:** Andy Ristaino. **49:** Coloring by Rhea Patton. **50–1:** Jennifer Nixon (coloring for flea circus gag); Mark Newgarden (dog ate homework); Steve Weissman (stepping on cracks); John Accurso (pill container company); Felipe Galindo (tightrope pasta); idea by William Levin (amoebas); Kaz (Gag Station pump). **60:** Phil Marden (Harry Potter); Glenn Head (falling down); Gary Hallgren (doodles). **64:** Chip Wass. **65:** R. Sikoryak. **68:** R. Sikoryak. **76:** Michael Slack. **81:** Pat Moriarity. **83:** Robert Prince (tune-in TV). **88:** James Yamasaki.

OTHER CREDITS: K.C. Witherell and Nancy Leonard helped design this issue. All Zelda photographs by Janette Beckman. Apples at bottoms of pages were photographed and eaten by Joe Hart. **13:** Stephen Schaefer interviewed Julianne Moore; Margie Barron interviewed Terri Clark, Paul Hogan, Sisqo, Meryl Streep, and Tina Wesson. **37:** map © by RMC, R.L.#01-S-48, www.randmcnally.com (map of Minnesota). **65–8:** Thanks to our models Crystal Andino, Miranda Gonzalez, Kenneth Bordes Hollon, Kevin Jakimas, and Nadia Waski. **77:** Thanks to Judith DeLuce for being our Latin tutor. **83:** Thanks to John Coffey and Jason Root for their help with "What's New on Nick."

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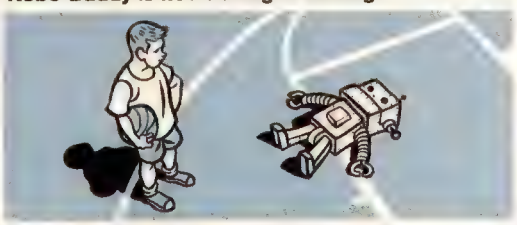
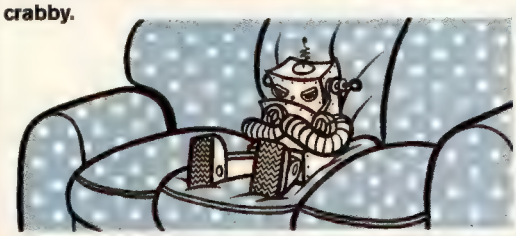
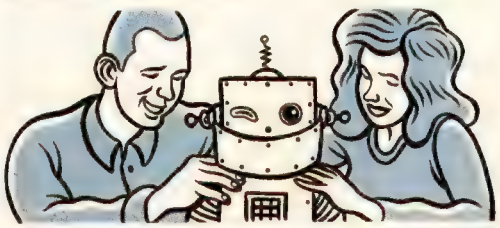
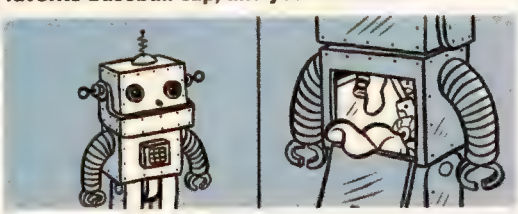
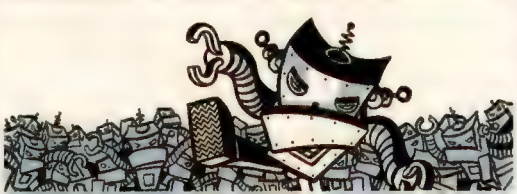
We got our hands on this troubleshooting guide for the Robo-Buddy 3000, a new robot toy that we hope will never hit the market

Robo-Buddy 3000

Should you encounter any problems with your new Robo-Buddy, please consult this Troubleshooting Guide.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Robo-Buddy is not moving or talking. 	**Either the batteries are dead or Robo-Buddy just doesn't like you.**	**Replace batteries. If that doesn't work, try tickling Robo-Buddy.**
Robo-Buddy is moving and talking too much.	**Robo-Buddy has had too much motor oil, coffee, or candy.**	**Check motor oil levels. If normal, disconnect cappuccino machine inside Robo-Buddy's head and lock up your sweets.**
Robo-Buddy is pouting, acting surly, or being crabby. 	**Robo-Buddy is spoiled.**	**Clean out cranky case. Check craw to see if something is stuck in there. Clear craw.**
Parents or guardians seem to like Robo-Buddy more than they like you. 	**Robo-Buddy has been cleaning your room, taking your tests, and doing your household chores.**	**Break fine china; blame it on Robo-Buddy.**
You're missing a few CDs, some tapes, your favorite baseball cap, and your television. 	**Robo-Buddy is a thief.**	**Check rear compartment for CDs, tapes, cap, television. If they are present, have Robo-Buddy arrested.**
Robo-Buddy invited 500 other Robo-Buddies over, and they're rampaging through the neighborhood. 	**Robo-Buddy is attempting to conquer the world and destroy humanity as we know it.**	**Run, I tell you, run!**

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Rugrats caught reading.

Real Answers

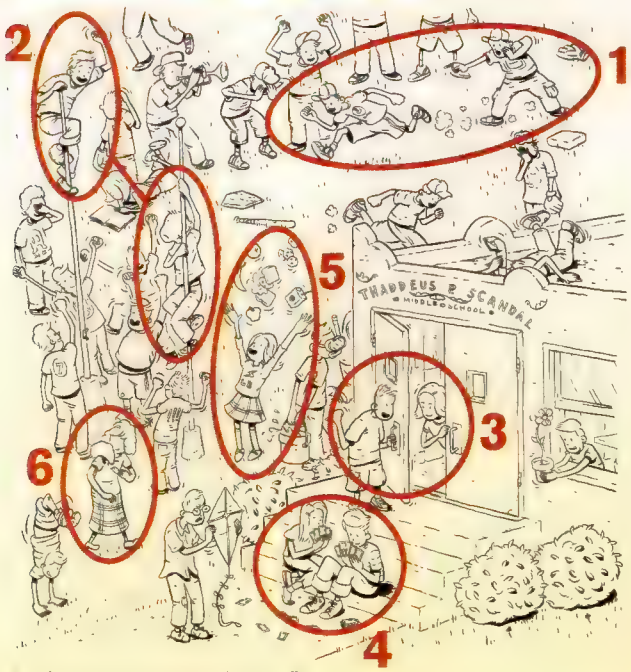
Four for Fall (page 10): **1**–A, **2**–B, **3**–B, **4**–C.

Destiny's Editors (page 10): The Nick Mag editors are Rachel Roswal *(left)* and John-Ryan Hevron *(right)*.

IM Out of Order (page 17): **1**–Window B, **2**–Window F, **3**–Window C, **4**–Window A, **5**–Window E, **6**–Window D.

Tommy Tattler's Animated World of Gossip (page 21): **1**–Dexter and Didi, **2**–Popeye and Bluto, **3**–Spider-Man and the Incredible Hulk, **4**–Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, **5**–Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble, **6**–SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Starfish, **7**–Scooby-Doo and Shaggy.

The Rumors Are True (page 22):



1. "Louis was sent home."
2. "Bill beat Eric up."
3. "Joey asked Melissa if she wanted to go out."
4. "I saw Jenna and Michael holding hands."
5. "Emily threw up her lunch."
6. "Brittany has a hairy mole."

Lounge Lineup (pages 38–9): **1**–B, **2**–E, **3**–C, **4**–G, **5**–D, **6**–F, **7**–A. Teachers H and I are absent.

Way Off Base (page 76): **1**–A, **2**–A, **3**–B, **4**–B, **5**–B, **6**–B, **7**–A, **8**–B, **9**–A.

GOOF TROUPE: The photo of the Nintendo 64 controller was printed backward in the Pullout Prank Video Cover *Your Life & Times* (June/July). Game over.

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